Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Now that he has resigned, do you think former AG Edward T. Buckingham will still return to the CNMI to face criminal charges filed against him?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Several thousand Richmond residents have filed legal claims against Chevron Corp., seeking compensation for a refinery fire that fouled the region's air for hours and sent more than 4,000 people to seek medical care for breathing problems and irritated eyes.

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NATION

Cheered by the biggest crowds of his campaign, Republican Mitt Romney declared Sunday that 42-year-old running mate Paul Ryan is ready to be president, but said his own budget plan, not the more detailed proposals of his partner, will be the basis of his White House bid.

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Fitial leaves today for 3-week trip. PAGE 2
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Buckingham resigns anew, Alepuyo named acting AG

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

On the eve of his three-week off-island trip, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced yesterday that he accepted Edward T. Buckingham's resignation as CNMI attorney general and appointed attorney Viola Alepuyo as acting AG a little over a week after Buckingham left Saipan despite being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him.

Buckingham

» Concerns raised over criminal case vs Buckingham, conflict of interest involving Alepuyo

This also comes about a week after Buckingham rescinded his original resignation.

Fitial said Buckingham resigned anew "due to personal and medical reasons."

Buckingham is the subject of a bench warrant and $50,000 cash bail after he failed to show

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'Fitial impeachment impossible to succeed'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lawmakers said yesterday that a move to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is impossible to succeed in the 20-member House where any such move should originate and whose current leadership is aligned with the governor. But pro-impeachment lawmakers said introducing a resolution makes such a bold "statement" against the governor whom they said should be held accountable for his decisions.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said he will not support any such impeachment resolution against the governor.

"And besides, the governor has al-

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'Resignation doesn't make any difference to criminal case'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The resignation again of Edward T. Buckingham as Attorney General of the CNMI has no effect to the Office of Public Auditor's criminal case against him, according to OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback yesterday.

Asked for comment about Buckingham's latest resignation, Hasselback said it does not make any real difference one way or another with the progress of the criminal case.

"I'm still proceeding with the criminal case as

See CRIMINAL on Page 4

HEALTH FUNDING HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas Public Land Trust board chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero, left, and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, right, appear to be in deep thought as senators take turns asking officials of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., MPLT and Finance about the current financial state of the hospital, during a Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee hearing on CHC's fiscal year 2013 budget yesterday afternoon. CHC chief financial officer and chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta said the hospital continues to collect only some $750,000 a month but its operational expenses reach $2.5 million a month, thus asking for additional help from the central government and MPLT especially on a $7-million line of credit agreement that's yet to be finalized.

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Local

Fitial leaves today for 3-week trip

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will leave today for a three-week trip to Hawaii, American Samoa, and Florida—both on official business and personal reason.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos will be acting governor at least until Sept. 4, when the governor is expected to be back to the CNMI, press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday afternoon.

Demapan, who will be accompanying the governor and first lady Josie Fitial in this latest trip, said Fitial will first head for Maui, Hawaii to attend the annual meeting of the Pacific Basin Development Council from Aug. 15 to 16.

» Senate president: Governor chooses to leave in the midst of major problems

The meeting brings together the governors of the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and Hawaii, Demapan said.

Fitial will also be going to Pago-Pago, American Samoa to attend the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting from Aug. 20 to 23.

Demapan said Fitial's official travel terminates after the Coral Reef Task Force meeting, because from then, he will be off-island for personal reason.

"We need to make that very clear," he said.

Fitial, along with the first lady and Demapan, will be headed for Florida for the Republican National Convention, which starts on Aug. 26. Demapan will also be on personal leave for the Florida trip.

Fitial as president of the Republican Party of the NMI Association is expected to be joined in Florida by at least eight other GOP officers from the CNMI, possibly including his newly appointed acting attorney general Viola Alepuyo, GOP's national committeewoman.

The governor said last week this is the biggest contingent from the CNMI to attend a Republican National Convention.

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Defendant in 'ice; trafficking case pleads guilty

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REPORTER

A defendant in an "ice" trafficking case entered a guilty plea yesterday even as the Superior Court dismissed the case against his co-defendant.

Don Sanchez, 29, pleaded guilty to one count of trafficking of controlled substance.

Associate judge Kenneth Govendo dismissed without prejudice the charges against William Cabrera Jr.

Govendo granted Sanchez's guilty plea and the plea agreement. He set the sentencing for Oct. 16, 2012.

The judge directed the Office of the Adult Probation to prepare a pre-sentence investigation report.

The OAG charged Sanchez and Cabrera with trafficking of controlled substance, conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance, and illegal possession of controlled substance.

In addition, the OAG charged Sanchez with trafficking of controlled substance and illegal possession of controlled substance.

Sanchez and counsel Steve Nutting signed a plea agreement.

Under the plea agreement, the OAG and Sanchez agree that a sentencing hearing will be held to determine the sentence for Sanchez. The parties also agree that the government will move to dismiss the remaining charges in this case with prejudice.

According to the plea agreement, on April 11, 2011, an undercover buy was conducted at the house of Sanchez and that the defendant delivered .10 gross grams (.0298 grams after lab testing) of "ice" in exchange for $100.

On April 12, 2011, an undercover buy was conducted at Sanchez's house and a third party delivered .15 gross grams (.0245 grams after lab testing) of "ice" in exchange for $100.

On April 12 and May 3, 2011, police officers conducted a search warrant at Sanchez's home where they found and took evidence 2.90 gross grams (.7151 grams after lab testing) of "ice."

The jury trial of Sanchez and Cabrera was supposed to commence yesterday.

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Australia urged to reopen asylum seeker centres on PNG and Nauru

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—A panel tasked by Australia's government with looking at how to stem asylum seeker boat arrivals has recommended establishing processing centres in Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

The panel, led by former Defence Force head Angus Houston, has also advocated that the government's controversial people-swap deal with Malaysia should be kept as a second option.

Reopening of the Nauru processing centre looms as a solution acceptable to both the coalition government and the opposition.

Government officials have had talks with PNG officials earlier this year about the possible re-opening of the centre on Manus Island.

The panel recommends legislation be introduced urgently to support the transfer of asylum-seekers to regional processing centres.

The legislation would require the parliament to sign off on any future designation of offshore processing locations.

Tinian Summer Ads

To encourage summer travel to **Tinian** from Korea, three travel agents and the **Marianas Visitors Authority** partnered on a series of summer ads aimed at increasing awareness of Tinian as one of the best vacation destinations in the world. The travel trade marketing campaign also aimed to promote and sell Tinian tour packages offered by the participating travel agents.

DD Tours ran ads in early July in **Hankyoreh** newspaper and **Kyunghyang** newspaper. **Yellow Balloon Tour** conducted a series of ad from July 2-20, 2012, with an event banner under **G-Market's** travel category. **Mode Tour** began advertising on July 4 and will continue through Sept. 4 at **Nam-young subway station.**

As of May 2012, the Northern Mariana Islands had received 9,052 visitors from Korea, an increase of 24 percent over the same period last fiscal year. A majority of them were on package tours.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

PSS energy conservation policy remains in effect

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan said the Public School System's energy conservation policy will remain in effect for school year 2012-2013.

This means all public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are only allowed four hours of air-con use each day. These covers classrooms, administration offices, and the Board of Education office.

For elementary schools, the commissioner said air-con units will only be turned on from 9am to 1pm daily. For the secondary level, air-con use will be limited from 10am to 3pm.

Sablan

Sablan said PSS will also minimize power and water consumption during weekends by imposing limitations on power usage for after-school programs and activities.

The public schools' utility bills are among its biggest expense, costing PSS over $3 million annually.

It is supposed to be paid under PSS' all other accounts from the local government, which only allocated $2 million for both utilities and operations for the whole year. As a result, PSS continues to incur unpaid obligations to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

According to Sablan, the across the board four-hour air-con consumption limit each day will help reduce the PSS' CUC bills. This conservation effort is also in addition to the new clustering method PSS will implement this new school year in an effort to leverage PSS' resources and personnel.

Educators and employees interviewed in several schools yesterday disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that in line with individual school's energy conservation plan, many light bulbs have also been replaced with energy efficient lighting to reduce each school's power consumption. Possible water leaks have also been checked and dilapidated pipes were replaced to ensure accurate billing.

They also added that air-con units will also be adjusted to 78 degrees (temperature) and will recommend the opening of windows and doors in the beginning of classes in the morning.

Saipan Tribune learned that schools have also designated a staff/employee who will closely monitor the daily power and water consumption and other internal austerity measures on campus.

PSS, under the budget allocation for fiscal year 2012, was provided only $30 million of which $28 million will be utilized in paying for personnel salary, while $2 million for operation and all others and this include utilities. For fiscal year 2013, the House of Representatives recommended $29.5 million for PSS for its personnel and operations.

Man with 2 pending criminal cases arrested for robbery

Kevin I. Esteves, a 21-year-old man who has two pending criminal cases, was arrested again on Friday and this time for robbery.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos imposed a $25,000 cash bail plus other conditions for the defendant's temporary release.

"The court finds you posing danger to the community. This is cash [bail]," said Inos after reviewing the background of the case as well as with the two pending other cases.

The judge said he finds that allowing Esteves to post 10 percent of the $25,000 cash is inappropriate.

Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 20 at 9am.

Inos appointed assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti as counsel for Esteves.

Detective John D. Cabrera stated in his report that police's investigations showed that it was Esteves who was responsible for robbing a 17-year-old male of his necklace and earrings in front of Dandan Elementary School on June 2, 2012.

Cabrera said two police officers responded to a store in Dandan on June 2 at 9:31pm after receiving a call about a theft complaint.

The victim told responding police officers that while he was walking south from his house on his way to KV PC Internet Shop, Esteves approached and confronted him if he was tough and wanted to fight.

Esteves then allegedly began threatening the victim that he would beat him up and that he better not try to run because he would end up catching him.

The suspect later demanded the victim to hand over his silver necklace that he was wearing at the time.

The victim tried to persuade the accused not to take his necklace, but Esteves allegedly threatened to kill him if he would not give the necklace.

Since it was dark in the area at the time, the victim was scared and gave his necklace. Esteves, however, asked for the victim's cell phone and earrings.

The victim begged not to take his cell phone and earrings, but the suspect threatened to beat him up. The victim was forced to give his earrings.

Esteves then walked across the street toward a house. The victim proceeded to a store where he reported the matter to the police.

Police later located Esteves at a residence near Dandan Elementary School. The victim positively identified Esteves as the one who robbed him.

Esteves was still wearing the victim's necklace and earrings when a police officer confronted him.

The suspect was then arrested and the items were returned to the victim. He was subsequently released from jail as police conducted further investigation.

Police served the arrest warrant to Esteves on Friday night in Dandan.

In December 2011, police arrested Esteves and Bradley DLR. Palacios for allegedly beating up a man and damaging his vehicle outside Ace Pool Bar in Garapan in the early morning of Dec. 1, 2011.

In July 2012, police arrested Esteves for allegedly punching a man in front of Treasure Island Poker in Garapan. Esteves allegedly resisted arrest and was belligerent, prompting a police officer to spray pepper mace at him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FITIAL

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Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the governor chooses to leave the CNMI in the midst of major problems.

"You have problems with the attorney general issue, the investigations, the hospital, the Retirement Fund, you have a lot of 'acting' secretaries instead of permanent leaders, you have lots of emergency declarations, yet the governor decides to leave. But then again, maybe it's best the governor is off-island," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial's latest trip comes about a month after the governor was also off-island for some three weeks to go to Virginia, Washington, D.C. and California in July.

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FITIAL

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ready accepted [Edward] Buckingham's resignation as AG [attorney general]. I guess that helped solve the problem," Torres said.

Torres' support would have been crucial in tipping the scale in favor of those supporting the impeachment. Torres is aligned with the House leadership and the governor.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), a member of the minority bloc, cautioned against advancing an impeachment resolution and reminded his fellow lawmakers that "not liking" the governor or politics should not play a role in the proceedings.

"You are talking about removing a governor, the highest official in the CNMI elected by the people… This is not something you take lightly especially if you don't have solid articles of impeachment which I haven't seen up to now," he told reporters.

Yumul said should a resolution be introduced, he will carefully review the charges and decide from there.

"I will be fair. Nobody would want a biased and unfair trial," he added.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), from the minority bloc, said he doesn't believe that pro-impeachment lawmakers will have the needed number of votes "to pull it through both in the House and the Senate."

"I will be discussing this with the minority group in the House and come to a consensus on the matter," he said.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), the only lawmaker who initially agreed to go on record on Sunday to confirm discussions about initiative impeachment proceedings, reiterated yesterday that they still do not have the number needed.

Discussions about impeachment started months ago, leading to a drafting of a resolution. But the governor's possible link to the use of armed police and ports police officers allegedly to shield then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges is among those that could be added to the list of charges.

"We still do not have the votes," he said.

Other lawmakers aligned with the governor declined to be quoted, but said they will not support impeachment.

But another lawmaker said while there is no sufficient number right now to vote on the impeachment, "if we begin the process and once evidence starts coming out, the tides will change."

Press secretary Angel Demapan reiterated yesterday that Fitial will continue to address the pressing issues besetting the CNMI such as the economy and people's quality of life.

"Like I said yesterday, rumors and speculation do not catch the governor's attention," Demapan said.

But Fitial is leaving today for a three-week trip for official business and personal reasons amid what Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) describes as a series of serious problems in the CNMI.

Impeachment and conviction is a method of removing a governor or other government officials. Impeachment is the process of accusing an official of misconduct in office and is similar to the process of indictment by a grand jury. Impeachment is only a formal accusation; it is not a determination of guilt or innocence. This judgment requires a trial.

Article III Section 19 of the NMI Constitution states in part that the governor is subject to impeachment for treason, commission of a felony, corruption or neglect of duty.

"The House of Representatives may initiate impeachment proceedings by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members and the Senate may convict after hearing by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members," Article II Section 8 of the NMI Constitution says.

In the 20-member House, at least 14 affirmative votes are needed to initiate impeachment proceedings.

Tebuteb and other lawmakers hope that the vote would cross party lines.

In the nine-member Senate, at least six affirmative votes are needed to convict.

Sources said among the possible grounds for impeachment are the governor's role in having a federal inmate taken out of prison in the wee hours of the morning to massage him when he said he was in severe pain, and his award of a sole-source contract to manage the ARRA program to a former Cabinet member within days of resigning.

CRIMINAL

From Page 1

it stands. I really don't have any comment on it," Hasselback said.

The OPA said he is not going to express opinion one way or another with respect to Buckingham's resignation.

"Frankly, it's kind of irrelevant for the purpose of the criminal prosecution," he said.

Hasselback said he has not spoken to Buckingham, who is now reportedly in the U.S. mainland.

As to the question on how to serve the bench warrant for the arrest of Buckingham, Hasselback said he has no comment as they are still investigating those things.

He said he has no idea if Buckingham is returning to Saipan to face the charges.

OPA filed seven criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham.

The five charges were in connection with Buckingham's alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's party at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's house in August 2010 and Buckingham's approval of a $400,000 sole-source ARRA management contract award in October 2010 to Michael Ada within days of stepping down as a Cabinet secretary.

The two charges—obstructing justice: interference with service of process, and misconduct in public office—were related to Buckingham's alleged use of police officers to escort him at the airport to avoid being served with penal summons between Friday and Saturday.

Last Tuesday, Aug. 7, Wiseman signed a bench warrant that commanded Department of Public Safety acting commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro to arrest Buckingham for his failure to appear at the hearing on Monday, Aug. 6.

Wiseman ordered the DPS commissioner or any law enforcement officer to bring Buckingham before the Superior Court without any unnecessary delay.

The judge set a $50,000 cash bail for Buckingham.

An FBI special agent served Buckingham with the penal summons at the airport shortly after he and his wife left Saipan at 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan last Aug. 4.

RESIGNS

From Page 1

up in the Superior Court despite being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed by the Office of the Public Auditor against him.

The Office of the Attorney General tried to represent Buckingham, but the judge didn't accept the representation in this criminal matter.

As of yesterday, there's no telling whether Buckingham will ever step foot on Saipan again.

The circumstances surrounding Buckingham's departure from Saipan have also been shrouded with controversies. Armed police and ports police officers allegedly helped shield the AG from being served a penal summons, drawing flak from lawmakers wanting an investigation into alleged abuse of power and misuse of government resources. An FBI agent was able to serve Buckingham the penal summons before his Aug. 4 morning flight took off.

Because Buckingham's resignation is "effective immediately," his 30-day annual leave ends immediately. This means he is no longer paid from the effective date of his resignation.

'Retaliation'

Fitial, in a statement yesterday afternoon, said he accepted Buckingham's resignation effective immediately, but defended his AG of three years.

"In the days that followed Mr. Buckingham's initial announcement of his intent to resign, he became the subject of retaliation through what obviously appeared as a rushed filing of charges against him," Fitial said in a statement.

Fitial said these events "cast an unnecessary cloud over the Office of the Attorney General."

"So in an effort to ensure that the OAG can move forward with its duties, I have accepted Mr. Buckingham's immediate resignation," said Fitial, as he also announced his appointment of Alepuyo.

Fitial said "now that the AG has resigned, the Office of the Attorney General must continue to faithfully serve the people of the Commonwealth."

"To ensure that stability and direction is maintained, I have appointed Viola Alepuyo as acting attorney general," he added.

Under CNMI statutes, appointments in acting capacity should not exceed 90 days.

New acting AG's message

Alepuyo, in a statement around 7:30pm last night, thanked Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos "for this opportunity to serve in this capacity."

She said when the governor asked her if she would consider helping him by being acting AG, she took some time to ask some people their thoughts on the matter.

"I received advice from many people. One person said he hated the governor and warned me not to take the position and let the whole administration just burn to the ground. A few said it wasn't my problem and I should not get involved. I was advised, 'why take a position just to be publicly ridiculed and criticized?' They said, 'stay in private practice and just make money.' Most people gave me this advice: If you can help, especially now when we really need it the most—please do your best to help," Alepuyo said.

She also said, "To all of us living here, the CNMI is our home. And if our home is our castle, then in time of danger and crisis, we do not retreat and run away from our castle. We rise up and defend our castle. We rise to the challenge to save our home. We rise to save our CNMI."

Alepuyo said she humbly asks the public for their prayers and patience, "the challenges are great and resources are limited."

"The work that needs to be done cannot happen overnight. But it most definitely will not happen if we simply do nothing. Let us then begin the work that needs to be done," she added.

Concerns

Alepuyo said the AG "is the attorney for the Commonwealth."

"The duties and responsibilities are spelled out in the Constitution and public laws. I can only follow the Constitution and the law. The Attorney General's duties and responsibilities are limited to legal matters of the Commonwealth. Matters of public policy or politics are not an area the Office of Attorney General and should never be over-lapping with its legal duties," she said.

On the issue of transparency, Alepuyo said just as a private attorney gives confidential legal advice to his or her client, the attorney general gives legal advice to the governor, lieutenant governor, as well as departments and agencies.

"To the extent possible when I am able to make public any information on matters and issues, the Office of the Attorney General will issue a press release," she said.

But this early, Alepuyo's appointment as acting AG has been drawing concerns.

"Can a political party officer serve as attorney general of the CNMI?" one lawmaker asked.

Alepuyo is the national committeewoman for the Republican Party of the NMI Association, which also has the governor as its president and chairman.

Fitial, along with Alepuyo and at least seven other local Republicans, will be heading to Florida for the Republican National Convention later this month. ***(See related story on Page 2)***

Alepuyo on Buckingham

Alepuyo said on the issue of Buckingham, "the matter is now before the court."

"Let the Office of the Public Auditor and Mr. Buckingham's privately retained attorney handle that matter. As to the issue of the alleged DPS escort of Mr. Buckingham, let the respective law enforcement agency conduct and complete their investigation. Just like any case, the Office of the Attorney General awaits the case to be forwarded for review and prosecution, if warranted," she said.

Alepuyo's message to the attorneys and staff of the Office of the Attorney General is this: "We have enormous challenges ahead of us. Let us stabilize the office. Let us assess the crisis and what needs to be done. I want you all to know that I work long hours; I like to be prepared and knowledgeable about the issues and cases. I expect the people in the office to work hard and know their respective cases and assignment."

Another government official said yesterday that Alepuyo would need to recuse herself from matters involving the case against Buckingham, among other things.

Alepuyo is the wife of the then delegate candidate—now Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho—who was allegedly hosted by Buckingham at a meet-and-greet party at the governor's house in August 2010 and this is among the subjects of the Office of the Public Auditor's criminal case against Buckingham.

'Peculiar case'

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in an interview with reporters yesterday afternoon, said the case against Buckingham is a "peculiar one" compared to other criminal cases.

"This involves yes the attorney general at the time. However, the laws of the Commonwealth have to be examined to determine whether representation is warranted and in what areas and to what degree. We understand that representation in the case of a criminal filing is not possible and that's something that the new acting general will look into, and will come out with a determination on the position of the Office of the Attorney General," Demapan told reporters.

Demapan said Alepuyo "is a seasoned professional attorney and knows very well at which point in time she would recuse herself and yield to other attorneys within the Office of the Attorney General."

"I'm pretty sure when that time comes, matters specific to that, Ms. Alepuyo will make a decision to that effect," he said.

When asked whether Fitial has a plan to appoint Alepuyo as permanent AG needing the Senate advice and confirmation, Demapan said, "At this point in time, the administration has not selected anyone for the nomination to the post of attorney general that would undergo the confirmation process at the Senate.

"This is something that the governor and the lieutenant governor are now discussing. In the coming days or within this 90-day period, the administration is anticipated to come out with a nomination for AG," Demapan said.

Alepuyo is also either current or former counsel for some government entities including the NMI Retirement Fund board and the Public Utilities Commission.

She has also been recently subcontracted by a Washington, D.C.-based firm that was awarded an almost $300,000 contract to work with the Department of Commerce.

Investigation continues

Buckingham's resignation, however, is not stopping the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations from investigating the incident at the Saipan airport involving Buckingham and officers from the Department of Public Safety and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chair of the EAGI Committee, said yesterday that Buckingham's resignation is "a relief for the people of the Commonwealth and its people and importantly, the integrity of the OAG."

"But still the EAGI Committee will not be satisfied until Buckingham returns and face the charges against him in a court of law," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune.*

Fitial fires election board commissioner Kiyoshi

» Board now lacks quorum; new appointee named

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial fired last Friday Tinian's representative to the Commission on Elections resulting in the board having no quorum at this time.

Jose Kiyohi is Tinian's lone representative to the election board and his term was supposed to expire on Oct. 4.

However, due to some constitutionality issues uncovered about his appointment, he was removed from the post. Kiyoshi, who has served the board since March 2009, is the current head of the Tinian Department of Commerce.

Fitial, in his letter to Kiyoshi, said that it was brought to his attention that Kiyoshi was also appointed by Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz to serve as his resident department head for commerce.

The governor cited that under 1CMC Article III 17(b) "no resident department head may be appointed to serve in any commonwealth-wide board, commission, or authority."

"As a result, this letter serves to remove you from your post as a member of the CEC. While I regret to resort to this remedy, I must ensure that every member of all boards and commissioners are serving the Commonwealth legally," said the governor, who thanked Kiyoshi for his service and contributions to the election commission board.

Kiyoshi was off-island when contacted yesterday at his office on Tinian for comments.

Election commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the commission board cannot function at this time due to lack of member or members from Tinian.

It is stipulated in the election law that without any representative from Rota and Tinian, the board cannot function and make decision as a whole.

Just recently, election board member Antonio Agulto also resigned from his post after he decided to run for government office as an independent candidate.

Last Thursday, the governor reappointed Donald M. Hofschneider as representative for Tinian. Once confirmed by the Senate, he will serve a four-year term which will expire on July 20, 2015.

Fitial, in the appointment letter, stated that his administration is confident that Hofschneider, which served the election commission for many years, will be an asset to the board.

Guerrero confirmed that his office was notified and has received the latest appointment from the governor, but pointed out that it's only after Hofschneider's confirmation that the member can join the board and function anew.

Since the deadline of filing candidacies for the mid-term elections last Aug. 8, no certification has been made to date by the election board due to lack of quorum. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the board was supposed to meet last Saturday to certify candidates but was affected by the termination of Kiyoshi.

Guerrero, when asked about the impact of Kiyoshi's firing on the operations of the election commission, explained that in the absence of a board quorum, the law authorizes an "automatic certification" 45 days before the election.

This means, he said, that with or without a functioning board, all candidates who filed and legislative initiatives submitted will be automatically certified on Sept. 22—or 45 days prior to Nov. 6 elections.

Guerrero said that the election commission board is a nine-member body comprised of five representatives from Saipan and two commissioners each from Rota and Tinian, all of whom serve four-year terms.

At present, the board has three vacancies for Saipan and two for Tinian.

The four members currently onboard include chair Frances Sablan and Jesus Sablan for Saipan and Leilanie Manglona and Josepha Barcinas for Rota.

The CNMI mid-term elections has the following positions up for grabs: 20 seats for the House of Representatives; three seats for the Senate; three seats for Board of Education; all positions at the municipal councils; and one position for U.S. Delegate to U.S. Congress.

Suspended lawyer Atalig pleads not guilty

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Suspended lawyer Antonio M. Atalig yesterday entered a not guilty plea to the charges that he assaulted his two minor children and threatened to kill them and their mother.

At the arraignment, the 55-year-old Atalig pleaded not guilty to an amended information charging him with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of child abuse, one count of assault and battery, three counts of assault, and three counts of disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set a status conference for Sept. 19, 2012 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti appeared as counsel for Atalig. Chief Prosecutor Peter B. Prestley represented the CNMI government.

Atalig is still in detention after failing to post a $25,000 cash bail.

Last week, Atalig waived his right to have a preliminary hearing.

Police arrested the suspended lawyer last July 29 shortly after the incident that happened at his residence in Papago.

The Office of the Attorney General stated in the amended information that Atalig assaulted his two minor children with a PVC pipe and a rock.

The OAG said the defendant also assaulted his wife and their other minor child.

The OAG named the wife and two minor children as victims in the disturbing the peace charges.

In May 2012, Wiseman suspended Atalig and attorney Reynaldo O. Yana from practicing law in the CNMI for refusing to return $1.1 million in attorneys' fees that the two obtained from the Angel Malite estate.

July 23, 2012

TO: ENRIQUE Q. SALAS and ROSARIO T. SALAS:

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated June 30, 2007, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. 002 G 245, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 903 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b)	Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage:	June 30, 1997; $11,765.07
(c)	Amount due for principal:	$349.32 as of June 1, 2012
(d)	Amount due for interest:	$2,400.68 as of June 1, 2012
(e)	Daily accruing interest:	$0.75

If the principal, interest, and late charges $2,750.00 as of June 1, 2012, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un Komple I kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Junio dia 30, 2007, ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged):

Sitio Numeru 002 G 245 ni gaigi Kagman II, Saipan, Islas Marianas, san kattan, ni ha konsiste un aria 903 quadrao metro, mas pat menus, mas partikulamenti diskribi gi Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, gi Mayo dia 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 90-1904, Saipan, guihi I discripcion ni ma incorporate guini ginen I infotmasion.

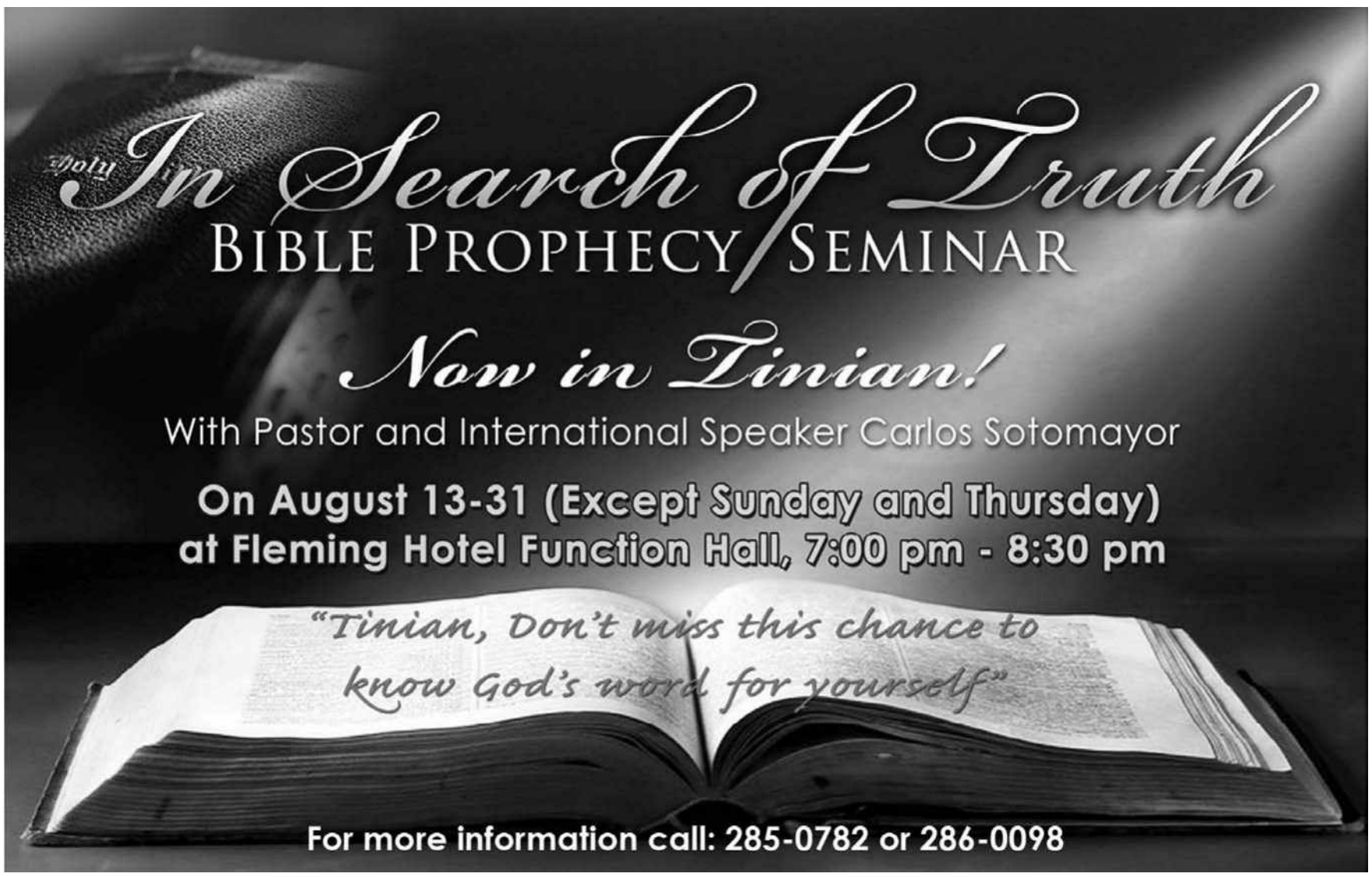
(b)	I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepeña:	Junio 30, 1997; $11,765.07
(c)	Kantida un debi para principat:	$347.32 asta ki June 1, 2012
(d)	Kantida un debi para interes:	$2,400.68 asta ki June 1, 2012
(e)	Interes kada dia:	$0.75

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $2,750.00, yan i reasonable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe esta na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-na pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infotfotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai ni henta information pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law


In Search of Truth
BIBLE PROPHECY SEMINAR
Now in Tinian!
With Pastor and International Speaker Carlos Sotomayor
On August 13-31 (Except Sunday and Thursday)
at Fleming Hotel Function Hall, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
"Tinian, Don't miss this chance to know God's word for yourself"
For more information call: 285-0782 or 286-0098

Japanese group G GAP to perform at Red Cross Club 200

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In line with its "Way Wild West" theme, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's Club 200 event this year will feature performances from the popular Japanese country music group G GAP.

Red Cross executive director John Hirsh confirmed in a phone interview yesterday that G GAP will provide live music for community members who will demonstrate their support for the organization's biggest annual fundraiser.

"It's final, they will perform at the Club 200," Hirsh told *Saipan Tribune.*

The 24th Annual American Red Cross Club 200 is slated for Oct. 6 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Hirsh disclosed that the event was originally scheduled on Sept. 28 but had to be moved to Oct. 6 after conversations with Country House Restaurant management took place.

The restaurant located in Garapan hosted G GAP when the group performed in a benefit show to help relief efforts for the victims of the 9.0-magnitude earthquake in Japan, which triggered a destructive tsunami on March 11, 2011.

G GAP is comprised of Ryuji Hirao, guitar and vocals; Naomi Amemiya, electronic guitar and vocals; Yuichiro Nagasaka, bass and vocals; Keigo Nakajima, drums and vocals; and Yasuharu Muranaka, pedal steel guitar.

Hirsh said they are excited about this year's country western theme for the Club 200, which was chosen by the Red Cross board out of about ten other potential themes.

"I think it's an easy theme to develop and to work with. I think it'll be good. We're excited," he added.

Besides country music from G GAP, the annual event will also feature music from a local disc jockey for a night of fun and entertainment. Hirsh said they talked to someone who owns a horse and is willing to bring it to the venue for that extra wild west vibe.

"I really think this year is going to be fun. It's going to be out on the beach just like it was last year which got a lot of positive response. We had great weather, and hopefully that will happen again this year," said Hirsh.

Tickets still cost $100 each, a price which hasn't gone up for the last 15 years, according to Hirsh.

"With the cost of everything going up, we haven't raised the price in all these years," he said. "Really, it's a good value when you look at it, particularly this year with the G GAP, a hitliner entertainment group from Japan flying in."

The ticket entitles the holder to enjoy not just the live entertainment but also a full buffet with bottomless drinks and a chance to win great prizes such as airline tickets from Delta Air Lines and United as well as other prize packages, including the grand prize of $15,000.

"It's money well-spent and, most importantly, you know it's going to a worthwhile cause," added Hirsh.

He said they are trying to get the tickets available for sale by Friday. Cash and major credit cards are accepted modes of payment through volunteer ticket sellers who can deliver the tickets to anywhere on island.

For more information, visit the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter office along Airport Road or call 234-3459.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's Club 200 event this year will feature performances from the popular Japanese country music group G GAP. File photos shows the band rocking their audience during a benefit concert at Country House Restaurant in Garapan in 2011.

CDA board receives presentation on SBCDI program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors last Friday received an overview about the CNMI State Small Business Credit Initiative program and updates on its status which will guide members in making their next decision whether they will keep or lift the moratorium imposed on new loans.

CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho, along with Department of Commerce's Ivan Blanco, faced the board Friday well-equipped with the knowledge on what and how the new SBCDI program will work and benefit the borrowers and the CNMI as a whole.

SBCDI is a federal program administered by U.S. Department of Treasury that aims to strengthen state programs that support private financing to small businesses and small manufacturers. The program allows states and territories and eligible municipalities the opportunity to build upon or create successful models for state small business programs including capital access programs (CAP), and other credit support programs (OCSPs) such as collateral support programs, loan participation programs, loan guarantee programs, and venture capital programs.

For the CNMI, the U.S. Treasury approved $13.1 million to be utilized until March 2017. The amount is broken down as follows: $4.6 million for loan purchase participation and $8.5 million for cash collateral support program.

Camacho described the SBCDI program as primarily "lender-driven" because all decisions on loan applications will entirely be made by the lender banks.

He also briefed the CDA board members on the kind of loans prohibited from joining this federal program. These include passive or investment real estate; loans to reimburse business owner for capital; injection or to buy company stocks; repayment of state or federal withholding taxes; loans to firms involved in lending activities such as banks, finance companies, insurance and others; pyramid sales plans; and firms engaged in activities prohibited by law or to companies owed and managed by convicted sex offenders.

Camacho informed the board that to date, there are banks and other entities that have expressed interest in participating in the SBCDI program. These included Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, Bank of Saipan, City Trust Bank, Bridge Capital LLC, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce which intends to help in the promotions of the program.

'Anticipated benefits'

Camacho revealed that under the SBCDI program, both CDA and Department of Commerce anticipate the creation of about 95 new loans to small businesses in the CNMI between 2012 and 2016. Thus, the program will also create job opportunities for residents and potential wage taxes for the government amounting to $3.1 million.

In March this year, the CDA board imposed a moratorium on new loans to give way for the SBCDI program to succeed. However, since the program's approval in February this year, CDA board member Diego Songao had expressed doubt that the new program is not moving forward at all. Thus, the moratorium is negatively affecting new borrowers of CDA.

The CDA board is expected to render a decision soon whether to keep or lift this moratorium following request from CDA management to give board members a presentation and updates about the SBCDI program.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS sets important dates for start of school year

Saipan Southern High School will hold its first day of classes for school year 2012-2013 on Sep. 4, 2012.

Students must be on campus by 8am. Classes starts at 8:30am and dismissal is at 3pm. All new students enrolling at SSHS for school year 2012-2013 must complete and submit a registration form.

Registration forms are available in the registrar's office or main office. All returning students who attended SSHS last year must return all textbooks and settle all obligations with the school, before you can pick up your class reschedule.

Schedules are to be picked up at the Counseling office are as follows:

- 12th grade: Aug. 22, 2012 9am-4pm
- 11th grade: Aug. 23 9am-4pm,
- 10th grade Aug. 24 9am-4pm.

All transfer and new students enrolling at SSHS SY2012-2013 in grades 10,11, and 12 are required to attend an orientation on Aug. 28 from 1pm to 3pm with their parents or legal guardians.

No students will be allowed to attend the orientation without parents or legal guardians in attendance. Incoming freshman students orientation will be held on two different session to accommodate parents or legal guardians work schedules. Both sessions are on Aug. 28 from 9am to 11am and 1pm to 3pm.

For more information, call SSHS principal Jesse Tudela at 237-3702 or the main office at 664-4000/ 237-3710. ***(PR)***

GTC important school events/dates:

- **Parent orientation:** There will be a parent orientation for new and returning parents to communicate changes and expectations for SY 2012-13. Orientation will be on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012 at 5pm (approximately an hour). School supply listing and free meal application will be available.
- **Kindergarten Reading First Assessment (RFA) Screening Test:** All in-coming kindergarten students will be tested with the RFA by his/her kindergarten teacher. The screening test is approximately 15-20 minutes. Scheduled testing time and date have been made with parents. Please do not miss your scheduled testing date. For your date and time, you may call, 237-3121 and ask for Ms. Angie. RFA testing days are Aug. 20-22, 2012 between 8:30am and 11:30am.
- **Kindergarten orientation:** There will be an orientation for all kindergarten parents and students. This is an opportunity for you and your child to meet your child's kinder teacher and answer any questions you may have. Expectations about home-school partnership will also be shared. Kinder orientation is on Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012 beginning at 5pm to 6pm.
- **First Day of School:** Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012. Classes start promptly at 8am and ends at 2pm.
- **Back to School Open House:** Friday, Sept. 7, 2012 at 5pm. We will convene in the cafeteria and then disperse into your child's classroom.
- **School Supply List for Kindergarten to 6th Grade:** Is available at National Office Supply and Modern Stationery. ***(PR)***

UOG course: Changing trends in the hospitality industry

Registration is open for Changing Trends in the Hospitality Industry, level 1. Taught by UOG Professor Fred Schumann, this 15 contact hour course can be used to satisfy training requirements for those businesses that hold Qualifying Certificates. This online course is designed for tourism industry employees who seek advancement to the supervisory or management level and runs Aug. 27-31, 2012. The cost is $180. Register online at http://www.regonline.com/Hospitality_Online. For more information contact cmoore@uguam.uog.edu or call 735-2600/1. ***(PR)***

Saipan's biggest party set

The NMI chapter of the American Red Cross announces the 24th annual Club 200 "Way Out West", their biggest fundraiser of the year, will be held on Oct. 6 from 5pm to 10pm at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

For the first time, the theme is western-based with a live country western band G-GAP coming from Tokyo to perform. Western attire is desired but not mandatory. Country line dancing is encouraged.

As always, there are a ton of raffle prizes, including a $15,000 grand prize. Tickets cost $100 each which includes entry into the raffle plus an all-you-can eat and drink buffet.

The event attracts more than a thousand partiers each year. Proceeds go to the non-profit American Red Cross.

For more information, contact the American Red Cross, NMI Chapter at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Marianas Made set to open

Marianas Made, a new consignment store specializing in locally made art and crafts as well as packaged specialty foods, is screening local products.

The screening starts today, Aug. 14, 2012 from 3pm to 5pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church behind Cafe at the Park in Garapan. Owner Debra Kay announced that Marianas Made will carry only items produced in the Mariana Islands. A cross between an art gallery and cultural gift shop, Marianas Made will carry prints, notecards, small stone and wood sculptures, beadwork, jewelry, candles, woven mats, coconut art, ceramics, wood carvings, music and more. Marianas Made will be located at the Thursday Street Market until a suitable store location can be found. For more information, call 287-0772 or e-mail changebuilding@gmail.com . ***(PR)***

300 participants take part in DYS summer camp

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 300 participants and over 100 volunteers took part in this year's summer camp organized by the Division of Youth Services.

DYS director Laura Ogumoro, during the program's closing rites Friday at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, disclosed the division's plan of expanding the event next year to accommodate more children—age 6 to 13 years—to get involved in worthwhile activities during the summer.

The four-week 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp was conducted at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School from 8am to 11am Mondays to Fridays.

Children and youth from various villages were taught lessons about arts and crafts such as basket weaving, lei and mwar making, banana painting, and beads making throughout the program.

Students' outputs were showcased to the public last Friday. Another important component of the summer camp was the various sports activities taught to children and youths such as basketball, baseball, track and field, and others.

"One of DYS' goals is to strengthen families and that includes youth and children. In order to do that, we need to empower our youths to become leaders in their own ways. The summer camp aims not only to provide them fun and enjoyable activities but we also want to increase our youths' knowledge and skills—sportsmanship, team work, leadership, and other skills that are beneficial to them as they go through their lives," said Ogumoro, adding that this year's turnout was the biggest recorded so far by the division.

In the closing ceremony Friday, Ogumoro conveyed a meaningful message to the families and community. "Please believe in the strength of our youths and cultivate that potential within them," she said.

The director said that besides the good turnout for the event, DYS also noted an overwhelming support from volunteers—youths, parents, and community members.

DYS specifically recognized the assistance demonstrated by six youth volunteers who were awarded certificates of appreciation by the division—Alexa San Nicolas, Clea San Nicolas, Angel Malasarte, John Malasarte, Josephus Aguilar, and Marc Venus.

According to 15-year-old Clea San Nicolas, providing assistance and volunteer work for the development of youths always brings her satisfaction and fulfillment. This was her second time to assist DYS in its summer program.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Parents and their children check the arts and crafts displayed during last Friday's closing ceremony for the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.

GUAM MICRONESIA ISLAND FAIR

Registered artists can avail of discounted airfare

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Performing groups and individual artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and will be part of the CNMI delegation for the upcoming Guam Micronesia Island Fair in October can avail of discounted airfares with United Airlines.

Parker Y. Yobei, Arts in Program coordinator for the Arts Council, said yesterday that the Guam Visitors Bureau, which organizes Guam's annual signature cultural event, was able to make arrangements with United Airlines to give event participants from the CNMI and Micronesia discounted rates on airline tickets.

The 25th Annual Guam Micronesia Island Fair is set from Oct. 5 to 7 at the Ypao Beach Park in Tumon.

Participants coming from Saipan will only pay $125 per person, excluding taxes, securityand fuel surcharges, and other fees.

Yobei said about 24 registered artists and several performing groups expressed interest in joining the event by attending the meeting held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Aug. 2.

According to Yobei, the meeting was arranged to inform the interested traditional and performing artists that due to the council's financial situation, they will have to solicit for their own airfares if they want to be part of the delegation representing the CNMI during the annual event.

The participants' accommodations, Yobei said, will be shouldered by GVB, the event organizer.

"They were very supportive and everybody is willing to help," Yobei told *Saipan Tribune*, referring to the interested artists. "A lot of them said that they want to try and solicit first but they're also willing to pay for their own fares."

Yobei said the Arts Council is looking at having 20 official delegates from the CNMI for the fair, comprised of three traditional artists each from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and one performing group.

He noted that the interested artists were informed that United Airlines will only block the seats under the discounted fares until Friday, Aug. 17.

Yobei said that the Arts Council will have another meeting with the interested artists within the week to finalize the list of delegates to participate in the event. The schedule for the meeting will be announced soon.

For more information, visit the Arts Council in Capital Hill next to the post office or call 322-9982 or 83.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-007

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A BUCKET TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TRAFFIC SECTION, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Bucket Truck for the Department of Public Works Traffic Section, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project consists of the supply and delivery of Bucket Truck for the Department of Public Works Traffic Section, Saipan. The project package will be available on or after, **August 7, 2012**, at the Department of Public Works Traffic Section, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Proponents are advised that submission of multiple proposals, or alternative approaches to specific sections of the requirements, will be considered non-compliant and those proposals will be qisqualified.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **August 28, 2012** to Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan or faxed to (670) 322-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, **August 30, 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. local time **August 30, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 30, 2012**, AND must received no later than **September 11, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m. local time, **September 13, 2012**, however, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. local time, on **September 4, 2012.**

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance Bond equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of performance bond.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-008

TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM UPGRADE-ISLAND WIDE, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Traffic Signal System Upgrade-Island Wide, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 14, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, **Traffic Section Office**, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a *Mandatory* **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 31, 2012**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 12, 2012 to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the proepective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-008"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 18 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 18, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 18, 2012** and must be received no later than **September 28, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **October 3, 2012**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on **September 25, 2012**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty **(180) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the standard Specification for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-03

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

13 complete child care training by NMC and DCCA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College Community Develop Institute program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong (standing far left), CDI acting director Floyd Masga (standing fourth from left), Child Care and Development Fund staff member Roselle Teregeyo (standing far right), and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs acting secretary Rhonda Nogis (seated fourth from left) take time to pose for a group photo with CNMI child care providers who were recently awarded certificates of completion for CDI's Infant & Toddler Care Training Program.

Thirteen care providers from various day care centers in the CNMI recently completed a professional development training program facilitated by the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute.

CDI awarded the participants certificates of completion in the Infant & Toddler Care Training Program during a recent ceremony hosted at NMC As Terlaje campus. The participants were also rewarded Continuing Education Units, which are units of credit for hours of participation in a program designed for professionals.

The 13 participants from the sixth cohort successfully completed a total of 70 hours of instruction during the nearly four-month long program. Topics that were covered included social-emotional growth and socialization, group care, learning and development, cultural and familial issues, and health and safety considerations.

"We are glad to assist these individuals enhance their professional skills and knowledge to provide quality care services," said acting CDI director Floyd Masga. "We are also happy to have helped a total of 93 individuals through this program since 2009."

The program was offered through an agreement between the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care Program and NMC's Community Development Institute (CDI), which is a program that offers a variety of developmental courses in a range of fields including child care.

For more information about the NMC Community Development Institute, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005/1010 or email CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong at leso@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC Fall 2012 registration ongoing this week

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Fall 2012 semester will be ongoing this week from Monday, Aug. 13 through Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during this week. Late registration is on Friday, August 17, 2012.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New or returning (re-admitted to NMC after not taking courses for one year or more) students, who did not attend the Fall 2012 student orientation, must view a brief student orientation video at the NMC Career Center located in Building I. Attending a student orientation or viewing this video prior to registration is mandatory for all new or returning students.

This video will be shown at the beginning of each hour between 9am and 3pm on Tuesday, Aug. 14, and Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012. For additional information, contact Neda C. Deleon Guerrero, NMC Career Services Manager, at 234-5498 ext. 1313 or email nedac@nmcnet.edu.

New students are also required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisors, who will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules.

Students may register between 9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week. Those who missed registering on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID may register on the following registration day. Note the following dates below:

Fall 2012 Important Dates

- Aug. 13 Registration for Students with PowerCampus # 000000100 through 000011900
- Aug. 14 Registration for Students with PowerCampus # 000011901 through 000015100
- Aug. 15 Registration for Students with PowerCampus # 000015101 through 000017660
- Aug. 16 Registration for all New, Re-Admitted and Ongoing Students
- Aug. 17 Late Registration for New, Re-Admitted and Ongoing Students

English Placement Test Schedule

- Aug. 14 9am-6pm Building M
- Aug. 15 9am-4pm Building M
- Aug. 16 9am-6pm Building M
- Aug. 17 9am-4pm Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule

- Aug. 14 10am-12pm Room A-9
  5pm-7pm Room A-9
- Aug. 15 10am-12pm Room A-9
- Aug. 16 10am-12pm Room A-9
  5pm-7pm Room A-9
- Aug. 17 10am-12pm Room A-9

Ongoing students must obtain a registration clearance slip at the Finance Office, the NMC Library and/or Office of Admissions and Records before they can register for classes. To find out if any holds exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1540.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Fall 2012 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1540, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

Value Loss Crops application deadline on Sept. 1

Application deadline for Value Loss Crops (i.e. aquaculture, turf grass, and floriculture) for Crop Year 2013 is Sept. 1, 2012

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The program is designed to reduce financial losses when damaging weather or adverse natural occurrences cause a catastrophic loss of production (over 50 percent) to an eligible crop or agricultural commodity. Application closing deadlines for the 2013 crop year are provided below.

1. The 2013 NAP application closing date for "value loss" crops such as turf grass, floriculture, aquaculture and Christmas trees is Sept. 1, 2012.
2. The 2013 NAP application closing date for crops such as vegetables, fruits, livestock forage, honey and most other crops, excluding ornamental nursery, is December 1, 2012.

The cost to apply for NAP, called a service fee, is $250 per crop or a maximum of $750 per farm per county for three or more crops. The fees are waived for limited resource farmers. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 14, 1999

CUC asked to subsidize utility cost of indigents

In a bid to help low-income families meet their mounting utility bills, the House of Representatives has urged the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to subsidize the costs of providing electricity and water to their homes. But CUC officials said they still need to review its financial impact before granting subsidy, asking legislators to seek other means of funding to pay their utility bills. The plea for help came as government aid under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program or LIHEAP runs out of funds. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has projected shortfall of at least $100,000 until the end of Fiscal 1999 in September.

$1.25M settlement threatens to distort public records—SGMA

The decision of four major retailers on the US mainland to settle out of the class action suits against Saipan garment manufacturing firms is unfortunate but understandable, according to Richard Pierce, spokesman of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association. Pierce was reacting to reports that Seattle-based retailers Nordstrom, Cutter & Buck, J. Crew and Gymboree had agreed to a settlement that include a $1.25 million fund for an independent monitoring system of the factories, as well as unstated damages to workers, attorneys fees and public education campaign. "Nordstrom made it quite clear that its desire was to end the negative publicity resulting from these suits as well as save a fortune ina legal cost," said Pierce. "Unfortunately, this doesn't resolve widely published but utterly unproven claims describing conditions in which the workers are being held as slaves."

Aug. 14, 2001

Legislators 'happy' with money's return

Lawmakers expressed relief yesterday at the decision of the Department of Finance to return the money that was taken from their Office Account funds to cover for the retirement employer contribution of legislative employees. "I am very much relieved over this development. Now I can proceed and pay the vendors what we owe them. I also get to retain my employees," said Rep. Martin B. Ada, who was one of the lawmakers whose Office Account funds would have been totally depleted had the DOF gone ahead with its plan. Ada said the past two weeks had been a nightmare for him. "I didn't want to jeopardize anybody's salaries because this action was uncalled for and it was not fair." He was echoed by Senate Floor Leader Pedro P. Reyes, who said that the finance department's decision to backtrack from its original position was "only fair."

Reduced grants for Pacific nations seen

A former Clinton official yesterday said the United States' seat of power, Washington DC, is lacking in attention to the welfare of Pacific nations, including the CNMI. Ferdinand Aranza, former director of the Office of Insular Affairs at the US Department of the Interior, projects that federal grants for Pacific territories will suffer a reduction due to tax cuts. "Washington DC has no perspective on the islands," Aranza said. He made the statement in front of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and more than a hundred delegates of the judiciary and the legal profession, as guest to the Pacific Judicial Conference, which kicked off yesterday at the Aqua Resort hotel on Saipan.

Aug. 14, 2002

Govt releases $150K for Rota

The Babauta administration has made available some $150,000 in a revolving fund from which Rota farmers and fishermen can borrow money from to bring them back to their feet after the onslaught of Typhoon Chata'an. The Rota Legislative Delegation signed the documents yesterday afternoon, effecting the transfer of the funds to the Agricultural Revolving Fund, which is under the Department of Commerce in Rota. "As Gov. Babauta had promised to help the people of Rota, today he makes good on that promise, as we sign the documents to have this funding available to our farmers and fishermen in Rota," said delegation chairman Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig.

Private firm to assess NMI's water needs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers disclosed that a private company has been awarded the contract for a review of Saipan's water master plan and for similar studies for Rota and Tinian. With this development, the Army Corps said a final report on the Commonwealth's water infrastructure needs is anticipated to be ready by January next year.

Island Snapshots

UPDATING ROTARY MONETH G. DEPOSA

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores updates members of the Saipan Rotary Club on the status of the municipality's projects and programs during the organization's weekly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan last Aug. 7.

LOAN MORATORIUM MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the Commonwealth Development Authority board and its officials discuss the possibility of lifting the agency's moratorium on new loans during a recent board meeting.

LONGER HOURS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A man walks past post office boxes at the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa on Friday. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) announced on Thursday that the public will be able to pick up their arriving packages during regular business hours and not only at the special package pick-up times that are currently in effect, following discussions between Sablan's office and USPS on concerns from the public.

SUMMER CAMP

The six student-volunteers who were recognized by the DYS during Friday's ceremony pose for a photo. The student-volunteers were Alexa San Nicolas, Clea San Nicolas, Angel Malasarte, John Malasarte, Josephus Aguilar, and Marc Venus.

Officials of the Division of Youth Services gather for a group photo during the conclusion of the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp last Friday. From left are summer camp chair Abner Venus, DYS director Laura Ogumoro, family support coordinator Josephine Rabauliman, and DYS head administrator Sharlene Lizama.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Students play as they wait for their parents to check their post office boxes at the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa on Friday.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Birthday greetings go out to Angela "Neilimewol" S. Romolor. May joy bloom on your way to a very happy day. Love from golf course gangs and McDonald Avenue fans,

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW FOUNDATION

The members of the newly created PSS Foundation board during a meeting last week at the Board of Education conference room. The board approved the opening of a checking account, established authorized signatories to sign checks, and designated its secretary as the foundation's registered agent.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Material Girl shows she has substance, too

Not everybody likes Madonna. But one reason the controversial Queen of Pop continues to be popular around the world is her compelling embrace of individual freedom.

In Moscow on Tuesday, Madonna urged authorities to free the three women in the punk-rock band Pussy Riot, who were arrested for staging a protest in an Orthodox church against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Maria Alyokhina, 24, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 22, and Yekaterina Samutsevich, 29, could face up to three years in prison for storming the altar and belting out a "punk prayer" calling on the Virgin Mary to rid Russia of Putin.

"I pray for their freedom," Madonna said to a cheering crowd at Olympiysky Stadium. "Obviously, I believe in freedom of speech, and I'm against censorship, so I hope that the judge is lenient with them and that they are freed soon." The pop star then stripped to her bra to show the band's name written on her back.

Certainly, to many people, religious or otherwise, the band's outburst in a church seemed disrespectful. But their transgression didn't deserve the five months in prison the women have already served, not to mention any additional time being contemplated.

Their protest inside a church demonstrated just how deep the women's despair must be to live in a country that, technically, is a democracy, but in reality doesn't allow individual rights.

Putin has corrupted the concept of democracy, keeping everything, and everyone, in Russia under his control.

Pussy Riot was right to protest his dictatorship, and Madonna was right to back the band.

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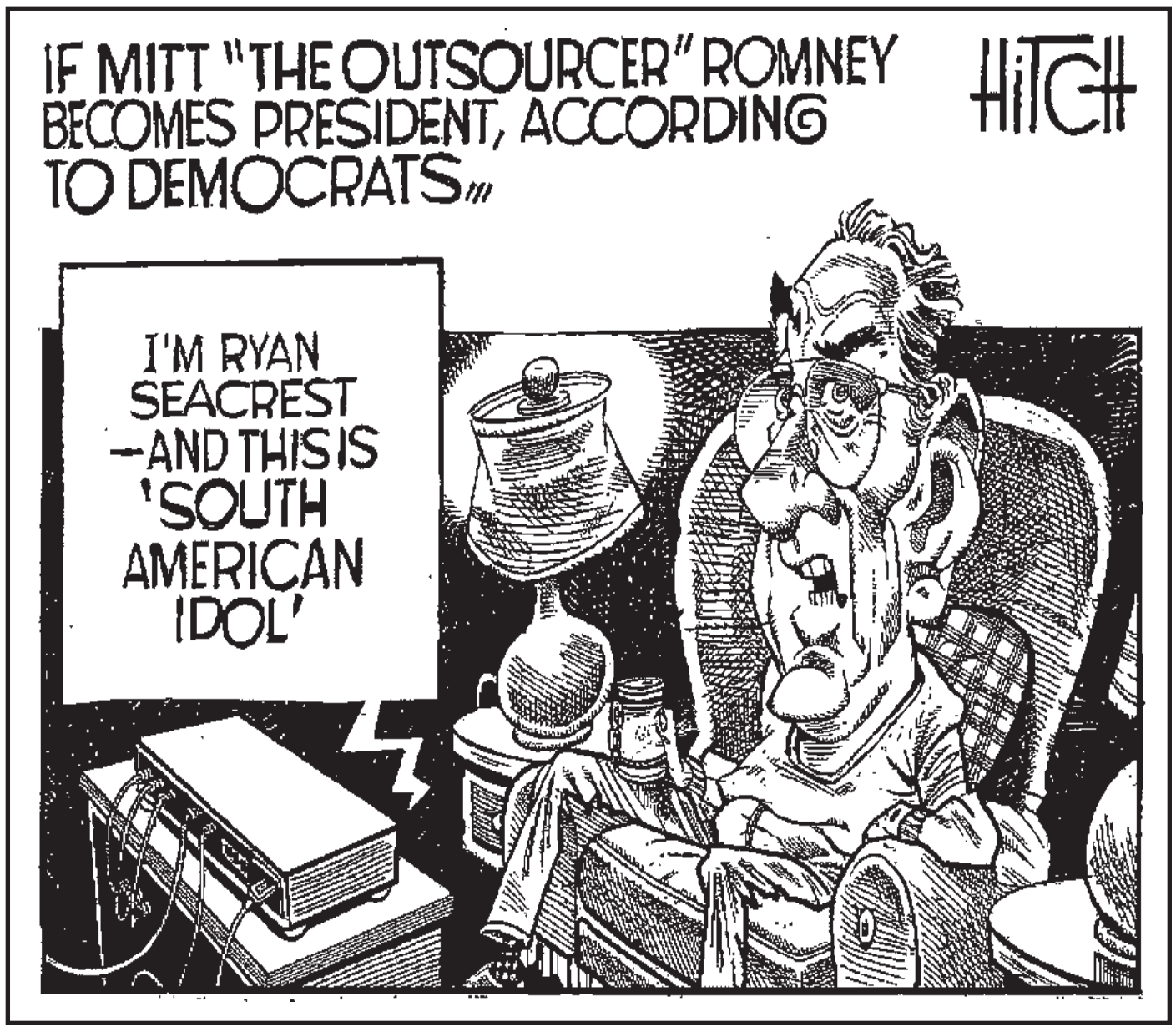

IF MITT "THE OUTSOURCER" ROMNEY BECOMES PRESIDENT, ACCORDING TO DEMOCRATS...
HITCH
I'M RYAN SEACREST —AND THIS IS 'SOUTH AMERICAN IDOL'

'Sikhs are not Muslims' sends a sinister message

By SCOTT C. ALEXANDER
Los Angeles Times

Scott C. Alexander is an associate professor of Islamic studies and director of Catholic-Muslim studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Almost from the beginning of their coverage of the horrific and deadly shooting at the Sikh temple in Wisconsin, CNN and other news media went out of their way to send a message to the American public: "Sikhs are not Muslims."

But what were we to make of that message? If the temple's members had been Muslims, would the attack have then been justified?

We say we don't endorse prejudice against one group or another, but for some reason we also want to make sure people know who the "we" and the "they" really are. CNN would probably say it was simply trying to clear up a common misunderstanding that, in this case, may have been shared by the gunman himself. Fair enough. The assertion that Sikhs are not Muslims is certainly true. Jains are not Hindus, and Mormons are not Methodists either.

But in the post-9/11context of a deadly act committed by an apparent white supremacist against a congregation that is largely ethnically South Asian—a congregation that includes bearded men in turbans—broadcasting the mantra that "Sikhs are not Muslims" takes on a far more insidious subtext: Don't blame these people, it implies, for the unspeakable crimes of 9/11. It's Muslims you want.

The media aren't alone in conveying, however unintentionally, this sinister message. When Barack Obama was running for president in 2008, he responded to the inaccurate but surprisingly persistent assertion that he was a Muslim with this statement in a 2008 debate: "The facts are I am Christian. I have been sworn in (as a U.S. senator) with a Bible."

As president, Obama has made an effort to stress how important Muslims are to the fabric of U.S. society and has praised the enormous contributions made by Islamic civilization to human history. Still, his behavior as a candidate was disappointing. When "accused" of being a Muslim, he didn't challenge the darker assumptions behind the assertion. He simply tried to distance himself from Muslims. His campaign also made sure there were no photo-ops in mosques and no women in hijab as part of the diversity tableau that served as a backdrop to his stump speeches.

John McCain got into the act when attempting a noble defense of his opponent in the 2008 race. At a Republican rally late in the campaign, a woman said she couldn't trust Obama because "he's an Arab." McCain objected: "No, ma'am; no, ma'am. He's a ... decent family man, (a) citizen that I just happen to have disagreements with on fundamental issues." It was a defense that undoubtedly left many Arab Americans (as well as Arabs around the world) horrified by the implication that Arab men must be, therefore, indecent and un-American.

At the height of the accusations that Obama was a closet Muslim, the only public figure I saw get it right was former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, the first black man ever to hold that office. In his famous "Meet the Press" appearance on Oct. 19, 2008, Powell, like others, condemned the "false intimations" that Obama was a Muslim. But he then went on to say: "But really the right answer is, what if he is (a Muslim)? Is there something wrong with being a Muslim in this country? The answer's 'No; that's not America.'"

It's time for all of us—Democrats and Republicans, "tea partyers" and Occupiers, conservative evangelicals and progressive Episcopalians, Latinos, blacks, Asians and whites alike—to take the kind of wise and principled stand that Powell took. We need to insist with one voice that American Muslims are not a "they" to be demonized but a treasured part of who "we" are as a people, and that the demonization of any minority group runs contrary to the spirit of this great country. In fact, we need to go even further and declare that Muslims the world over are an important and vital part of the one human family, with whom the rest of this same family needs to partner and build relationships of trust for the sake of us all.

If presidential candidates and television networks have trouble understanding these basic concepts, then there is obviously much work that has to be done.

We can begin by taking a good hard look at the groups to which we belong and by inviting "outsiders" to help us see the ways in which any aspect of the religious or civic identities we espouse urge us to reject entire groups of "others." As we do this, we need to embrace the truth that hatred can never be the touchstone of authentic faith or authentic patriotism.

For as tragedies such as 9/11 and Oak Creek remind us, hatred of any kind is nothing less than a profound betrayal of both God and country.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Memorable music and metaphors of madness at Marshgate

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

The evening was billed as a Symphony of British Music, bringing together the best musical stars of the last 50 years, characterizing the tenor of the closing ceremonies of the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The Olympic stadium is on Marshgate Lane in Stratford, London, and madness was a theme early on in the varied performances. We could not resist the alliteration in the title.

Britain of Winston Churchill, complete with a speechifying PM, along with images of tabloid journalism, the Cardiff cliffs, street sweepers, the London Eye of the famed Millennium Park Ferris wheel, and cars, cars, cars, set the tone for the evening, beginning at mid-evening summertime in London. Simulcast in the web but delayed on CCTV by a couple of hours for the morning audience, we missed much with the anchor's Zhongwen bantering and the sporadic English subtitles, especially of the performers.

The Empire that first employed oil to power its naval fleet, and became preeminent world power in the 19th century, was authentic in displaying what the world have wanted from its factory lines ever since. Who hasn't drooled over the majesty of the Rolls Royce, the *chic leopardine* sleekness of the Austin Martin, and the durability of the workhorse Land Rover?

Yup, the oil guzzlers were up on stage without apology. Very elegantly and arrogantly British!

Impressive was the parade of the international colors, followed by the march of medalists, and joined by the assembly of athletes to the side of the mid-field ramps that served as routes to the stage, and later, the Olympic flames, seen from above to be shaped like the Union Jack. Fitting for the occasion was the medal award ceremony for the marathon, with first finisher from Uganda, the sole medalist from the land of the much-maligned Idi Amin.

Recognition of the without-which-there-would-not-be-a-smooth-Olympics, the Volunteers, was poignant to us as we remember our Olympic hosting adviser from Sydney of Pinoy descent and pediatric training, who made the trip to London earlier to share her wisdom, undertaking such challenges while living with the scourge of cancer.

Volunteers were much heralded in the running of the Beijing Olympics and the Shanghai Expo that their tribe henceforth shall be a mainstay in every international sport gathering.

Employed on stage were former British Empire Commonwealths such as Indian drums and colorful Sikhs, along with memorable performances of the band Queen, joined by Jessie J in the vocals for We will, we will Rock You! A noticeable style of singing in the field started with monotone chanting, reaching a screeching height of screaming. I suppose, we are showing our age re electric metal rock!

Comedian Eric Idle of the Monty Python fame tore the stadium down when he emerged from the bowels of the earth after a feigned failed cannonball shot into the rafters, pranced, and sang on stage ("always look at the bright side of life") with the Spice Girls, nuns and the dancing Sheiks, et al.

The Who took a big chunk of the blood pudding, with hit songs like "Baba O'Riley," "My Generation", and their signature song from their musical Tommy, "See me, feel me/Listening to you." Earlier, Kaiser Chiefs rendered their classic "Pinball Wizard".

The night extravaganza went beyond its three hour schedule, but we stood when the Greek colors went up with the anthem to honor the Games' country of origin, and to remember how the euro that affects as all is critical in the economy of that land.

The singing of the Olympic anthem is lofty and dignified if one is a church-going person, but perhaps, for the seculars of our likeness, it is time to jazz it up.

Passing of the Olympic interlocking Penta Rings from London back to IOC president and on to the mayor of Rio de Janeiro stood us up for the perky national anthem of Brazil. Aerial view of the stadium with the Union Jack in the middle surrounded by lit Brazilian colors in circles was phenomenal visual assault.

A street sweeper-attired performer (looks like one of the athletes but I could not decipher the Zhongwen commentary) left on stage with an English security officer trying to point out that the performances was over, was a foil to get the next site Rio in Brazil, its Carnival dancers, a float, lively EuroAfrican beats and samba steps, Amazon motiffs, native costumes, and Pele!, on stage.

London Olympics coordinator Stephen Coe said in his farewell address: "we lit up the flame, and we light up the world." He added, "we saw what tenacity, ambition, and imagination can do." Wondered what that would do were we to refocus efforts on such daily human issues as poverty and war. Haunting in this regard were the children's voices that sang John Lennon song Imagine during the ceremony, followed by a projected image of the Beatle member himself singing his song in a somber moment.

Snuffing of the Olympic flame surrounded by a lit up stadium, and a last burst of fireworks, the fires were passed on to the emerging Brazilian bird in the background.

"In our time Britain got it right," said Coe. British version of madness is usually mayhem. This one went just fine. "You and me, we can light up the sky," went an ending song. And in a characteristic British fashion, "We can rule the world!" Nah.

Jacques Rogge, IOC president, bid his grateful adieu. The Who's "See me, feel me, touch me" from Tommy anticipated Copacobana of Rio. S, all right, Rio, top this one. Here we come, Copa! Got your thongs ready?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you CNMI

The weeklong July 4 celebration in the Commonwealth capped with an unprecedented success and the 2012 Liberation Day Committee and the Saipan Mayor's Office credits its partners, volunteers, and the community for putting out a memorable and meaningful festivities.

With an alcohol-free environment, the celebration was capped by the 4th of July Parade and the 2012 Liberation Queen Coronation, with thousands participating and showing up in support of this annual historic festivity. The Commonwealth owes its freedom from the Liberation of Camp Susupe some 67 years ago this year.

The celebration commenced on June 29 and ran through July 4.

With the theme, "Enlightening Our Culture, Courage, Freedom and Unity," the committee said it was "the partnership and collaboration" with everyone that ensured the success of this year's July 4 festivities. This comes as the Commonwealth grapples with economic difficulties.

It was certainly a success for all of us. And what is also worth noting is that this year we have implemented an alcohol- and tobacco-free celebration within the festival grounds. The 2012 Liberation Committee and the Saipan Mayor's Office have partnered with KKMP and the Commonwealth Health Corp.

The committee has also hailed the 2012 Liberation Queen candidates, their parents and supporters for their great contribution in the selling of fundraising tickets. The proceeds have help defray the cost and expenses for the celebration.

Along with KKMP and CHC as one of our major sponsors, the committee would also like to extend its sincere appreciation to the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Delta Airlines, IT&E, Coca Cola Beverage Company, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and numerous of organizations, agencies and individuals.

We would also like to say thank you to the following individuals, government agencies, and businesses that have played an important role and supported the success of this year's July 4th Liberation Day celebration: Amenthyst Beauty Salon, Briddge Capital, LLC, Pacific Development Inc.(PDI), Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Work, Construction & Material Supply (CMS), Coral Ocean Point, CTP, DJ Fish Mart, Fiesta Resort & Spa, GPPC, Inc., Gree Air-Conditioning, Hans Corporation, Hollywood Theatre, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Instant Tropical Press, ITS Corporation, KPS Corporation, Laolao Golf and Resort, Marfega Trading Co., Inc. , Marianas Country Club, Marianas Variety, Tribune News Saipan, Napa Auto Truck Parts, National Office Supply, P & A, Corporation, Pacific Trading Company, QQ Rent-A-Car, Ideals/Saipan Computer Services, Saipan Ice & Water, Saipan Triple Star Recycling, Inc., YCO Corporation, McDonalds.

These organization, agencies, and individuals believe that working collaboratively with one common goal of celebrating the freedom that we enjoy today made this year's celebration a success. We look forward for everyone's continued support next year.

Jonas M. Barcinas
2012 Liberation Day Committee chairman

I was right all alone

Please allow me to express my situation I've encountered with a bank. What inspired me to write this letter is because I am frustrated with this bank. I knew it that I was right all alone.

My financial institute sold my loan to a bank. Both parties sent me letters about the transaction and notified me about my starting date to make payments. Every 13th of the month is my due date of payments. I have a savings account with this bank that bought my loan. I have a net to bank transaction that goes into my savings account. On the day to make payment the 13th of the month, I called by phone to check my account balance and noticed some of my money in my account was missing. So I called the bank and inquired. They told me that they pulled out the loan fee from my savings account. I was shocked. I told a bank representative that the bank cannot do that without my knowledge or consent.

The representative told me they have the right to take money from my savings account if I owe the bank money. I told the representative that it is unconstitutional for the bank to do that unless I signed an authorization for the bank to do so. Twice I called the bank to make a complaint. At one occasion, when I signed the savings account card, I was told the back states that if I owe the bank money the bank has the right to deduct the amount from my savings account. Maybe their right or maybe something is not right. Or perhaps wrong interpretation to make the customer confused. I let the situation go and let them do what they want to do. So every 13th of the month the bank pulled out the amount of my loan in my savings account.

On Aug. 10, 2012 my wife went to the bank to withdraw money. They told her I owe the bank some late fee charges for my loan. My wife was shocked. How could this be happening when they have been deducting the loan fee for several months at a due date and now telling us that we owe. I mean I was right when I explained to the representative. So the bank teller told my wife to tell me to come in and sign an authorization agreement for the bank to be deducting the loan fee from my savings account. When my wife called me and informed me of the matter I was more frustrated. The problem with this situation is that if both representatives that I talked with do not know how to handle this matter, they should have referred me to the manager or supervisor. This tells me that there is lack of experience to handle this situation with a customer, lack of motivation, lack of training, and lack of customer satisfaction.

Obviously I figured out the situation was misinterpreted. The bank is right to deduct money from my savings account if my loan is passed due to my grace period. I was also right that the bank cannot deduct the loan fee from my savings account without signing the authorization agreement. I suggest the attorney for this bank should check this matter and rectify it so there wouldn't be any confusion.

Ray Agulto
Kannat Tabla

Clarification

The *Saipan Tribune* has been following the story of the CNMI government seeking to enroll its employees in the U.S. Social Security system. I have seen significant confusion and misinformation about the options available to the government. This is an important issue and that makes it important for everyone to have the facts.

Social Security is already working in partnership with the CNMI government to enroll its employees into Social Security. The Governor has submitted the required request to the Commonwealth legislature. The House passed it last month and the Senate is expected to approve it shortly. Once approved, the request will go to the U.S. Department of the Treasury to begin the tax collections and coverage for the government employees.

There is no ability under current law to provide government employees of the CNMI with retroactive Social Security coverage. To pursue any retroactive coverage, CNMI would need to seek legislation in the U.S. Congress to authorize such coverage.

I know this is a difficult time for the Commonwealth employees. They and the government need to have the right information to make the best choices.

Bill Zielinski
Social Security Administration regional commissioner

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88 ° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

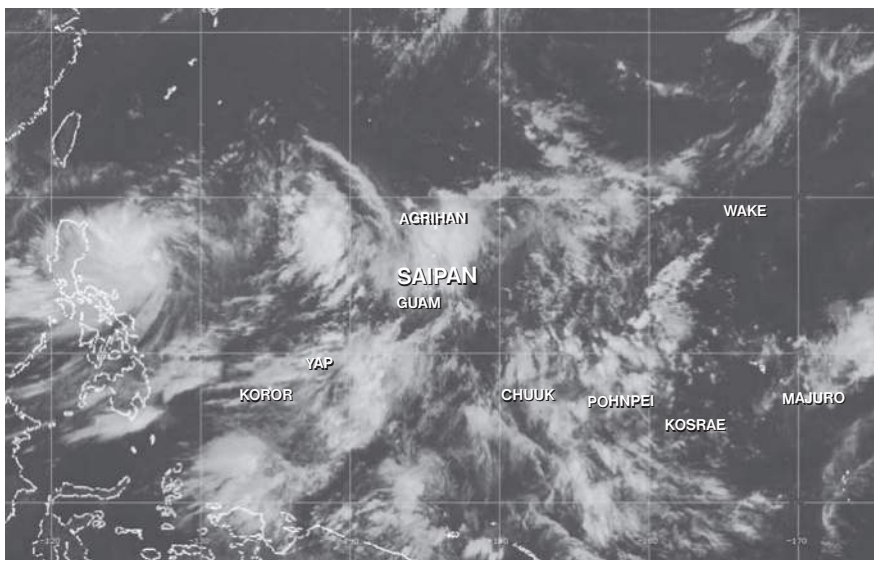
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼50
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Showers	▲73	▼63
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲90	▼69
Manila	Thundershowers	▲82	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼69
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Paris	Cloudy	▲80	▼66
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼70
Salem	Sunny	▲91	▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼59
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs eastward from 18N130E to 21N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 150 miles either side of a line from 20N137E to 15N144E to about 20N150E, including the Mariana Islands. Low-level convergence in west to southwest flow south of the monsoon trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Yap and Palau, between the equator and 11N from 131E to 148E. East of the monsoon trough, low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the area bounded by 25N155E to 22N157E to 22N161E to 16N155E to 18N153E back to 25N155E. This includes Minami Torishima. A surface trough extends from 10N147E southeastward past Chuuk to 2N155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in the area bounded by 12N152E to 10N155E to 12N162E to EQ162E to EQ155E back to 12N152E, including Chuuk and Pohnpei.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
12:53 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Tuesday	2:42 AM	3:53 PM
Wednesday	3:34 AM	4:40 PM
Thursday	4:27 AM	5:25 PM
Friday	5:21 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	6:52 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A call to action

To the people of the CNMI:

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."—**The Declaration of Independence***

These are words that every American should know and understand. As Americans, we love to take pride in being able to say that we are a part of the United States. We take advantage of our political relationship with the United States in numerous ways, the most common one being our acceptance of federal funds intended to improve the livelihood of our people and the services that are available to us in the CNMI. But as Americans, how many of us actually truly understand the words in the document that birthed our parent nation? How many of us actually understand that the government only gets away with whatever WE, the governed, allow them to get away with? These words at the beginning of the Declaration of Independence speak more truth for the CNMI than any of our career politicians will ever be willing to speak. Indeed, all experience has shown that our people are more willing to suffer for as long as we can take it, instead of making things right by ridding ourselves of these cancerous things that we have gotten used to through the years. When will enough be enough? When will we decide, as the people of the CNMI, that we are no longer willing to suffer at the hands of our elected officials? When will we stop putting all the blame on the government, and realize that we are to blame as well, for allowing such things to go on for all these years? We are not as powerless as we think we are, though I'm sure the government would love to have us continue to believe that.

Going back to the Declaration of Independence, one of the most notable sentences is the following: "But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security." Haven't we had a long enough train of abuses and usurpations in the short history of the CNMI so far? Let's take a little look at just a few of the recent abuses and usurpations we've had to experience already: our elected officials and their friends go on junket trips on a regular basis and enjoy a lavish lifestyle while away from the CNMI, they have considered allowing Japanese tsunami debris to be dumped on Pagan, our governor offered to lease some of our islands to China, he ordered the release of a federal prisoner because he needed a massage, our deputy commissioner of DPS and his cops aided our AG's escape from the CNMI, our attorney general doesn't follow election laws, he approves unethical contracts, and runs away from court summons and bench warrants. And that's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to everything that our government has done that we have just allowed to happen! All of these things have happened, and yet we still remain silent, just accepting these occurrences as the usual state of affairs in the CNMI. This begs the question, WHY?

We take pride in knowing that the CNMI is different from any other member of the American family; however, we are very much alike in terms of the mindset our people have. We have had in place in the CNMI a culture of unquestioning acceptance of the status quo. Whenever someone asks the tough questions that need to be asked, they are met with some variant of "That's just the way it is, it's never gonna change." In our culture, to question such things is viewed by the older generation as a disrespectful act. "Show some respect," they tell us. What they fail to understand is that respect is a two-way street. If you want the younger generations to respect you, you had first better show that you respect them by doing everything in your power to ensure that the CNMI that they grow up in is not the CNMI that we have today. Do we really expect our younger generations to respect us if the Commonwealth that they grow up in is as messed up, if not messier, than our Commonwealth of today? Don't you think they will instead grow up with scorn in their hearts, knowing that we allowed the CNMI to end up that way; that we knew it was happening, but did nothing to put a stop to it all? There is already evidence of this happening today, as more and more high school graduates vow to never return to the islands when they leave for college. As the Native American saying goes, "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors: we borrow it from our children."

We have an obligation to our children and to all future generations in the CNMI to do everything in our power to ensure that they live in the best environment possible. It is this obligation, coupled with my general desire for a better life for all people, that is at the heart of all my social justice and political activism. It is this obligation that, whenever I feel like all hope is lost, reminds me that I must continue with my efforts no matter how futile they may seem at times. I don't want my children, when I end up having them, to have to go through all of this turmoil, or to grow up thinking that corruption is acceptable or just business as usual. I don't want to be a parent who has to decide between standing up for what is right or staying silent so I can keep putting food on the table. I don't want to have to explain to my children when they ask me why the CNMI is so messed up, that my generation and the generation before mine saw what was happening but did nothing to correct the problem because we were too busy caring about ourselves instead of trying to help the CNMI prosper as a whole. I don't want my children to feel like the only option for moving forward in life is to move away from the CNMI and never return. I don't want my children to live in a CNMI where a large portion of people live with the government's foot on their necks and are afraid to call public officials out because they could lose their job. No, that's not the kind of CNMI that I want my children to grow up in.

The CNMI that I want my children to grow up in is a CNMI that thrives off of multiple (successful) industries, not just tourism. I want my children to grow up in a CNMI in which everyone is treated as equals and everyone has an equal opportunity for success. In my children's CNMI, education is a top priority and the curriculum and programs set for the Public School System are some of the best in the Pacific. I want the CNMI to be a place where laws are upheld and enforced regardless of who is breaking them, by the time my children come into this world. I want my children to live in a CNMI where it's not who you know, but what you know that lands you the job. I want the CNMI of my children to be a place where voters are well informed when it comes to the politicians, their platforms, and political/voting history; where people vote for who they believe is the best choice for the CNMI, instead of voting by party lines or strictly by family lines. The CNMI that I want for my children is a CNMI where the elected officials truly represent those who vote for them and are completely open with their constituents about what they are doing in regards to their office. Lastly, I want my children to grow up in a CNMI where everyone works together for the continued success of the Commonwealth as a whole, as well as the success of all its inhabitants.

I think it's time for each of us to ask ourselves if this is really the CNMI that we want to leave for our kids. If the answer is no, then I say it's time to start changing our ways now. We must overcome our fears and take a stand against the corruption of our government! It's not exactly a secret that a revolution is needed in the CNMI, and with everything that has been going on lately, it's pretty obvious that now is as good a time as ever to finally have one. There is a Global Day of Protest coming up on the 15th of September; maybe we can finally shed a positive light on the CNMI globally by participating in this Global Day of Protest and finally letting all our frustrations out. We can finally show the world that "We're mad as hell, and we're not going to take this anymore!" The "AG Escape" scandal should have been an eye-opener for everyone in the CNMI. Have we really let ourselves slide for so long that when our corrupt attorney general tries to escape from a court summons by fleeing the island, he is assisted by our own police, who also harass a member of the media who tries to cover the story? Have we really gotten so used to all this corruption and abuse of power, that even upon hearing about this scandal, we still cannot manage to rise up as a community and say enough is enough? Have we really been so abused by our own government that we do not speak out against the injustices that it carries out against other people?

The foreign workers are just as much a part of our local community as any of us U.S. citizens are. They have been here for many years, some even decades, contributing to the community in many ways. Despite the many struggles that they have had to face over the years, whether it be horrible living and/or working conditions, wage issues, forced labor, or any of the other things they've had to endure during their stay, they still continue to live and work in the CNMI to this day. These people came to our islands with no intent of staying here for so long, but after their first year of employment, they had liked the CNMI enough to be willing to stay longer. They have contributed to our islands in ways that many of us take for granted today: they built the infrastructure, they staff the tourism and hotel industries, they operate the taxis that transport the tourists, they fix our cars, they raise our children while we go off to work, and they account for a large percent of the private sector. They have done all of this and stayed in the CNMI all this time because they want to be there. They are now deeply rooted in the community, and many of them have children who went to school with your children. It is obvious that these people love these islands as much as we do, and truly wish to stay. Despite all of that, the U.S. government just wants to kick them out, and the CNMI government wants them to stay, but remain as second-class citizens for the entire duration of their stay. Voiceless people can't complain, right?

The foreign workers are seeing through it all and are finally starting to decide that they will no longer accept being a second-class citizen forever. They are opposed to the extension of the Transitional Worker Program, which only prolongs their status as second-class citizens in the CNMI. They are instead urging the U.S. government to grant them permanent residency status so that they will finally have a pathway to citizenship. Some of you say that if they are granted improved immigration status, they'll just pack their bags and leave the CNMI. I doubt that this would be the case, considering how deeply rooted these people are in the CNMI. They have been around for so long, and many of them are your friends. They desire to be permanent residents because they want to continue to live in the CNMI, but they are tired of their stay depending on how willing they are to accept abuse and injustice. Is it so wrong for them to ask for that? Wasn't it Jesus who said "Love your neighbor as yourself?" Are we not a predominantly Christian community? Why are we not supporting our friends and neighbors in their fight for their right to stay in the CNMI as proper citizens? Have they not been living and working in the CNMI long enough to be considered as permanent residents? How would you want them to act, if the roles were reversed? Archbishop Desmond Tutu said it best: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality." In the spirit of the religion and the God that most of us profess our never-ending faith to, should we not join them in solidarity, and ask that our elected officials in the CNMI fully support their cause?

The CNMI is a diverse community, a melting pot of the Pacific, and everyone is just trying to survive, resident and nonresident alike. However, no one can survive in the current environment of the CNMI, with all of the corruption and shady deals in the government that we all allow to continue. To my parents' generation: are you guys happy with the way the CNMI turned out? Are you OK with the CNMI that your kids grew up in? To my generation: many of you are starting to have kids now; are you OK with your children growing up in a CNMI like this? Unless we all come together and rise up to crush the status quo before it's too late, the CNMI will never change—not in our generation, at least—and that's a very scary thought. I don't know about you all, but I don't want my kids to have to put up with the kind of government abuse I've had to put up with. Please stand up, all of you, and tell this government that you're mad as hell, and you're not going to take this any more! Some of you will say, "I have a family to support, and bills to pay! I can't do it!" It's exactly because you have a family to support, that you should all rise up as a community and put an end to government corruption and abuse. We are all residents of the CNMI, regardless of our citizenship, and we all want to see this place prosper.

How can we bring about a prosperous CNMI? The first step is being able to admit that we have a problem, and the next step is taking corrective action to solve that problem. Our residents need to be able to speak up about issues that they are concerned with. We need to be able to come together and work toward solutions to these problems, instead of just staying silent or just criticizing the government and playing the blame game. I propose that we utilize a direct action approach to our problems by organizing a general assembly on a weekly basis, where residents can meet up, discuss the issues, propose solutions, vote on those proposals, and then carry them out. The general assembly model is what the Indignados in Spain and the worldwide Occupy movement have been using to successfully mobilize the citizens into action. It's easy to learn, and easy to use. This is participatory democracy at its finest, because everyone is encouraged to participate and all voices are heard on a level playing field. Using this model, we can discuss, as a community, what kind of changes we desire in the CNMI, and we can formulate and carry out plans to bring about those changes. We can build a CNMI that really is a paradise in the Pacific, one that we all helped to create together, instead of this nightmare that the politicians and businesses created for us.

I have said all that I could, and I hope that there are at least a few people who agree. I hope I see the rise of the general assembly in the CNMI someday, and I hope I start seeing changes being brought about by the concerned residents of the CNMI. Change is going to be a long process for us, especially after all these years of the status quo prevailing in our Islands, but it is important that we start now, if we truly want our children to live in a better and brighter CNMI. Change is possible, but not unless you believe it is. Let's stop being slaves to the status quo. Another CNMI is possible. Let's make it happen, people of the CNMI. In closing, I would like to quote Paul Laurence Dunbar's "Sympathy:"

I know why the caged bird sings, ah me, When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,—When he beats his bars and he would be free; It is not a carol of joy or glee, But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core, But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings—I know why the caged bird sings!

Start singing, CNMI. We have been silent for far too long. To see the cage is to leave it.

Kelvin Rodeo
Glendale, CA

Business

Thousands file claims after Chevron refinery fire

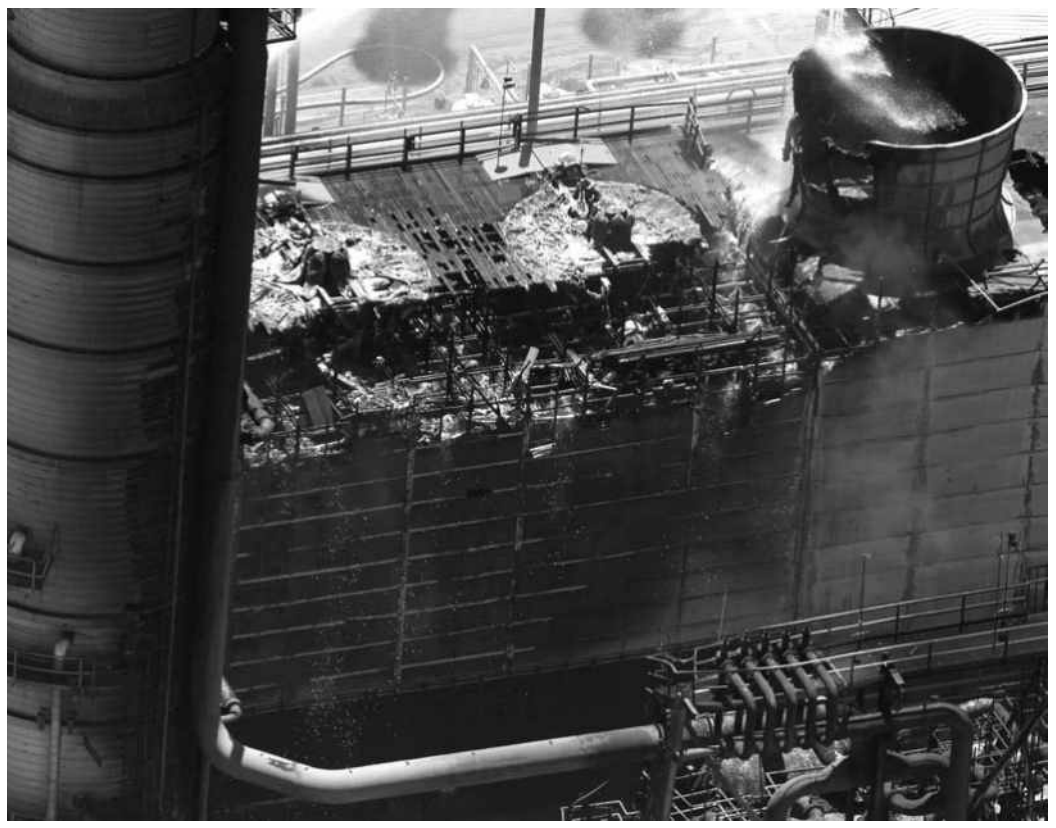
RICHMOND, Calif. (AP)—Several thousand Richmond residents have filed legal claims against Chevron Corp., seeking compensation for a refinery fire that fouled the region's air for hours and sent more than 4,000 people to seek medical care for breathing problems and irritated eyes.

Hundreds of residents showed up at a makeshift claim center in Richmond on Friday, and many more submitted claims throughout the week by calling a special hotline Chevron established after Monday's explosion and fire. The company said a total of about 3,800 people had submitted claims through Friday afternoon.

Most of the claims appear to be asking for modest amounts, reflecting the fact that there have been no reports of serious injury and nearly all seeking medical care were treated and released after a few hours in the hospital.

"It's not about the money," said Chanel Harris, who was seeking reimbursement for the cost of taking her three young children to the emergency room of the nearby Kaiser Hospital. "It's about holding Chevron accountable."

Harris spent about an hour in line and another 10 minutes talking to a claims adjuster inside the Nevin Community Center in Richmond. She said she won't know how much she's seeking until Kaiser sends a bill.



AP

Firefighting crews continue to pour water onto a unit after a fire at a Chevron refinery on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012 in Richmond, Calif.

Harris and others with medical insurance who sought care immediately after the incident are expecting reimbursements for their deductibles, drugs and other expenses.

Monica Morales, 26, waited for about two hours with her three children ages 6 weeks to 7 years old to file her claim. She's seeking about $500.

Others were told by a Chevron representative to expect even less, perhaps as little as $25 for a Kaiser copay.

"We are going to pay all appropriate and reasonable expenses," Chevron spokesman Sean Comey said.

Others, like Percy Gallon who showed up without receipts and other proof of expenses, were told they faced an uphill battle to receive anything.

"It's disappointing," said Gallon, a 61-year-old Richmond resident who said he lived out of the area when others received payments of about $1,000 each after a fire at the refinery in the 1990s. "I want in on this one."

The Chevron center in this gritty, blue-collar town about 15 miles northeast of San Francisco will remain open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday. Handling claims face-to-face is a new approach for Chevron, which has had dozens of accidents small and big in the more than 100 years its refinery has been located in Richmond.

"It's all part of our attempts at community outreach," said Chevron spokeswoman Melissa Ritchie. She added the company typically processed claims on the phone after previous accidents.

Richmond lawyer Nick Haney, who had long lines outside his office earlier in the week, said he expects to represent about 3,000 residents with legal claims. Haney said he hopes to negotiate a settlement with the company before filing lawsuits.

Mike Meadows, a Walnut Creek lawyer who has helped settle lawsuits for tens of millions of dollars against Chevron and other refineries because of previous mishaps, said he isn't participating in this incident because of the expected low payouts.

"The liability is pretty clear," Meadows said. "And I'm sure the victims showed up to the doctors with legitimate complaints." But he said most of the health problems caused by the fire likely were minor irritants rather than significant injuries.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District said it was still investigating the fire's effects on the region's air quality.

"While air samples taken near the facility detected normal background levels of toxic air contaminants, there was the potential for significant smoke in the area that impacted residents in the downwind neighborhoods," the district said in a statement Thursday. "The likely source of health impacts from the fire is particulate matter from smoke."

The district said it found one dangerous chemical, acrolein, above safe levels in the air, although safe levels of the chemical often are exceeded in the Bay Area. Acrolein can cause runny noses and irritate eyes.

Why some stocks are sinking despite big profits

NEW YORK (AP)—For investors, this restaurant chain is as hot as the red chili salsa on its menus. Maybe hotter. Maybe too hot.

The stock of Chipotle Mexican Grill has climbed four-fold in five years, and for good reason. Most quarters, the company would report surprisingly high earnings and investors would clamor to buy. But last month, the pattern broke. Chipotle posted blockbuster earnings, but investors sold.

The company's sin? It missed its target for revenues. The stock fell 21 percent, from $404 to $317, in a day.

Chipotle is not alone. Six in 10 big companies reporting second-quarter results have missed revenue targets, according to FactSet, a financial data provider. That is the worst showing since the recession.

Companies meeting expectations aren't doing so well, either. Overall, companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 are expected to have increased revenue 2 percent in the second quarter, according to S&P Capital IQ. That is the lowest growth, outside of a recession, in more than nine years.

"Demand is drying up," says Michael Thompson, managing director of S&P Capital IQ. "I'm worried. I'm very worried."

So are investors. On Wednesday, Priceline.com fell $117 to $562 after reporting revenue that was lower than analysts had expected. The story has been the same for dozens of companies across industries, from Coach, a luxury goods retailer, to Boston Scientific, which sells medical devices, to glass-container maker Owens-Illinois.

Revenue matters because it's a good path, though not the only one, to higher profits. If you sell more, you will often earn more. Companies in the S&P 500 index increased revenue 11 percent last year. That helped lift earnings 16 percent to a record high.

But now companies are having trouble getting people to buy more. The U.S. economy grew at an annual pace of just 1.5 percent in the April-June period. And growth abroad is faltering, too. Many of the 17 countries that use the euro are in recession. Brazil and China are slowing. On Friday, China reported that export growth slumped to 1 percent in July, down from 11 percent a month earlier.

For all the ominous news, most investors are still buying stocks. The S&P 500 is up 11 percent so far this year. That is because in the end, all that matters is earnings, not revenue. And earnings, after barely rising in the second and third quarters, are supposed to explode.

Wall Street analysts who advise investors on stocks expect earnings to rise 10 percent in the fourth quarter and 12 percent for all of 2013, according to S&P Capital IQ. But their expectations for revenues don't seem to jive with the optimistic profit picture. Revenues are expected to rise only 3 percent in the fourth quarter, then drop nearly 2 percent for all of 2013.

Economist Ed Yardeni, head of Yardeni Research, says he's hoping companies will post higher revenue, but he doesn't think that's likely.

"If anything, they will surprise on earnings," he says, meaning earnings will come in lower than expected.

Previously when revenue has faltered, companies were able to cut costs to compensate. They laid off workers, squeezed remaining staff and used technology to run more efficiently. And U.S. companies have been pros at doing this, as the millions of unemployed and all those people who do the work of two employees can attest.

Mercedes-Benz recalls floor mats from ML-Class

NEW YORK (AP)—Mercedes-Benz is recalling all-season accessory floor mats sold in model year 2012 and 2013 ML-Class vehicles because they could cause the car's gas pedal to get stuck.

Mercedes said Saturday that the mats may not conform to the contours of the car's floor. As a result, the gas pedal may not fully retract after the driver stops applying pressure, and the car may not slow down as expected. The company is advising ML-Class owners to remove the accessory floor mats.

A spokesman for Mercedes-Benz says the company is not aware of any crashes or injuries caused by the floor mat problem and is not sure how many vehicles worldwide may have the accessory floor mats. In a form filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the company said the problem may affect 8,675 vehicles in the U.S.

The company said ML-Class models have a safety system that overrides the gas pedal when the gas and brake pedals are both applied.

Mercedes-Benz, a unit of Daimler AG of Germany, said it will notify owners of the cars. Dealers will replace the floor mats for free.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Italy: Failed airline deal grounds hundreds

MILAN (AP)—Hundreds of Wind Jet airline passengers have been stranded due to the failure of Alitalia's deal to purchase the Sicily-based low-cost carrier. Wind Jet officially stopped operating flights Sunday during what is traditionally Italy's peak summer holiday travel period. Italy's aviation authority has reached a deal with other carriers to take on passengers for an additional fee, but Italian media say some travelers are still stranded, including some 200 in Rome bound for Tel Aviv. Alitalia says Wind Jet failed to turn over company financial data under an April agreement. Italy's economic development minister has called a meeting with both companies in Rome on Tuesday. The situation could affect some 300,000 passengers holding tickets for flights scheduled through October.

Judge: HK Occupy activists can be evicted

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's Occupy movement needs to find a new home. A judge on Monday granted a legal motion by HSBC to clear out anti-capitalist protesters from a public space below the bank's headquarters in the southern Chinese financial center. The judge ruled that the activists must leave by 9 p.m. on August 27. A small group of Occupy activists have set up tents, tables and sofas and have been living in the large open space on the ground floor of the building since the movement began last autumn. While HSBC owns the land, it's legally designated as a public passageway. The judge ruled that the activists' use of the space goes beyond the land's designated use.

Barnes & Noble cutting Nook tablet prices

NEW YORK (AP)—Barnes & Noble Inc. says it's reducing by $20 the price for its less-expensive model Nook tablet computer, undercutting by that amount the rival Kindle Fire sold by Amazon.com. The biggest U.S. traditional book retailer said Sunday it's cutting the price for the 8-gigabyte model Nook tablet to $179 from the current $199. The Kindle Fire, with 6 gigabytes of memory, sells for $199. Barnes & Noble also announced a $50 reduction, to $199 from $249, for its 16-gigabyte Nook tablet. It was the latest turn in the tablet wars, as Apple's iPad and the iOS system running it continue to dominate the market for tablets despite growing competition, and Microsoft prepares to launch a tablet based on Windows in October.

Nation

Romney seeks distance from Ryan's budget plans

HIGH POINT, N.C. (AP)—Cheered by the biggest crowds of his campaign, Republican Mitt Romney declared Sunday that 42-year-old running mate Paul Ryan is ready to be president, but said his own budget plan, not the more detailed proposals of his partner, will be the basis of his White House bid.

"I have my budget plan," he said. "And that's the budget plan we're going to run on."

Earlier, Romney walked a careful line as he campaigned with Ryan by his side in North Carolina, singling out his running mate's work "to make sure we can save Medicare." But the presidential candidate never said whether he embraced Ryan's austere plan himself, and he addressed the matter more directly in a "60 Minutes" interview, with Ryan still with him, that aired Sunday night on CBS.

Democrats weren't about to let them off that hook.

President Barack Obama, attending campaign fundraisers Sunday in Chicago, tagged Ryan as the "ideological leader" of the Republican Party.

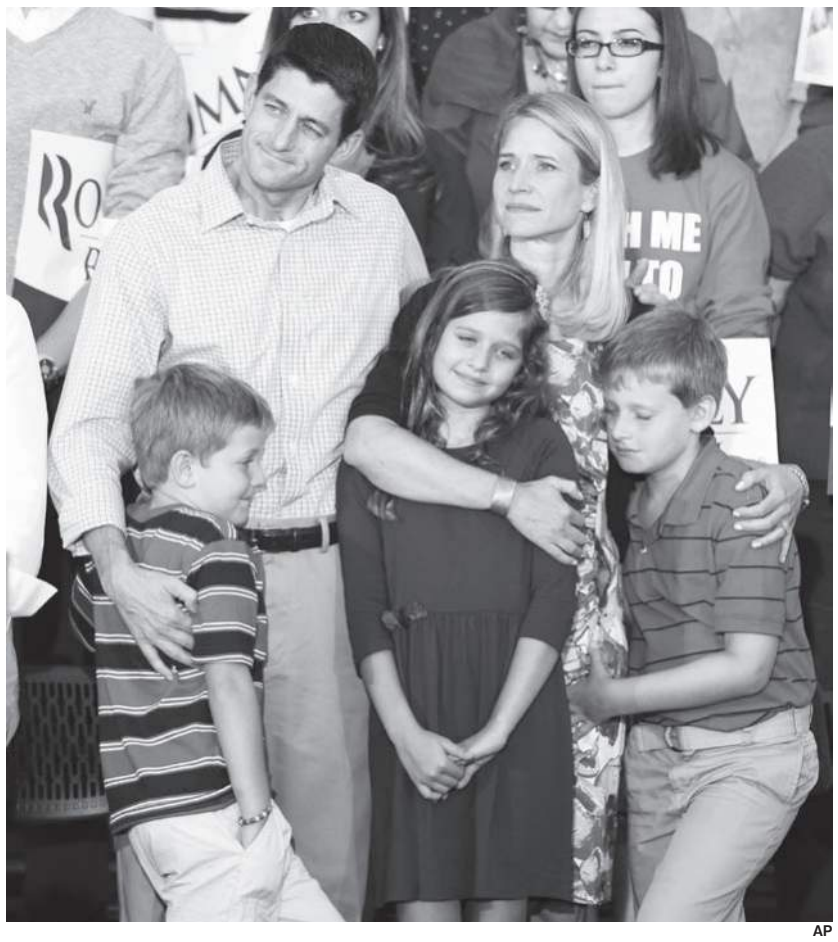
"He is a decent man, he is a family man, he is an articulate spokesman for Gov. Romney's vision but it is a vision that I fundamentally disagree with," Obama said in his first public comments about Ryan's selection.

Senior Obama adviser David Axelrod and other aides spent Sunday trying to brand Ryan's budget "the Ryan-Romney plan."

During the Republican primary, Romney had called Ryan's budget a "bold and exciting effort" that was "very much needed."

Ryan proposed to reshape the long-standing entitlement by setting up a voucher-like system to let future retirees shop for private health coverage or choose the traditional program—a plan that independent budget analysts say would probably mean smaller increases in benefits than current law would provide.

Romney and Ryan, in their first joint television interview Sunday, were clearly mindful that some of Ryan's proposals don't sit well with key constituencies, among them seniors in critical states like Florida and Ohio. Each man sought to reassure older voters they wouldn't take away their benefits, with Ryan saying his mother is "a Medicare senior in Florida" and Romney vowing there would be "no changes" for seniors currently counting on the popular federal program.



AP

Vice presidential running mate Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis,left, his wife Janna and daughter Liza and sons Charles, and Sam, right, during a welcome home rally Sunday, August, 12, 2012 in Waukesha, Wis.

"In America, the nature of this country has been giving people more freedom, more choices," Romney said. "That's how we make Medicare work down the road."

Romney praised his running mate for his policy depth and analytical skills and said if they should win the election, Ryan will surely be consulted in big decisions—"along with other individuals." He added: "Obviously I have to make the final call in important decisions."

The presumptive presidential nominee said Ryan, "if it were necessary, could become president." And Romney extolled his running mate's Washington experience, despite having criticized primary rivals Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum for their years in the nation's capital.

Ryan said he planned to release two years of personal tax returns to the public. The wealthy Romney is also releasing two years of returns, despite pressure from Democrats and some Republicans to provide more information about how he manages his millions.

Romney's selection of Ryan has jolted the presidential contest, until now one that had done little to draw the public's attention, and set the contours for the fall campaign: Romney as a proponent of a friendlier business climate seeking to revitalize the economy and rein in federal spending and Obama casting himself as a defender of middle-class families and federal spending on health care, retirement pensions and education.

The running mate pick also shifted the campaign debate, at least temporarily, to the pressing economic challenges facing the country - a debate both Romney and Obama have said they wanted to have even as the dialogue had spiraled into nasty, personal attacks. Sunday was a marked departure from the previous week, when the race for the White House devolved into name-calling and accusations of lying from both campaigns.

Three months from Election Day, polls find Obama with a narrow lead over Romney, though the race remains tight in key battleground states. And while Ryan's selection raised the role of government spending and Medicare in the election, the fundamentals of the campaign remained unchanged: a race defined by a weak economy and high unemployment, measured most recently at 8.3 percent in July.

Romney, seeking to pull his campaign out of a summer slump, appeared to relish in campaigning alongside the youthful and energetic Ryan.

ELECTION 2012

Few know Paul Ryan

Most people have never heard of Republican candidate Mitt Romney's pick for vice president, Rep. Paul Ryan, according to a recent poll.

• What is your opinion of Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.)?

Never heard of 38%
Favorable 27
Unfavorable 19
No opinion 16

Among Republicans, independents

Favorable 46
Never heard of 31
No opinion 16
Unfavorable 7

Source: ORC International/CNN poll of 1,010 adults,; Aug. 7-8, 2012; margin of error: +/- 3.5 percentage points (419 Republicans and independents; +/-5 percentage points)
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2012 MCT

ACROSS THE NATION

Pa. woman accused of killing fiance on wedding day

HOKENDAUQUA, Pa. (AP)—An eastern Pennsylvania woman who was supposed to be spending her first full day as a newlywed was instead in jail Sunday, accused of killing her fiance hours before they were to get married, authorities said. Na Cola Darcel Franklin, 31, was charged with criminal homicide in Saturday morning stabbing death of Billy Rafeal Brewster, 36, in their Whitehall Township apartment. At her arraignment by video from jail Saturday, Franklin—apparently unable to grasp that he was dead—pleaded to the judge, "You got to check again!" according to the Morning Call newspaper in Allentown. After District Judge Donna Butler told her that Brewster had been pronounced dead earlier, Franklin wailed and covered her face in her hands. "I want my family back," she said, rocking gently back and forth. "I want to go home."

Sikh temple holds 1st Sunday service since attack

OAK CREEK, Wis. (AP)—Hundreds of people who gathered at a Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee spoke of unity, strength and rebirth during the first Sunday service there since a gunman killed six people before fatally shooting himself. The service capped a weekend of events meant to honor the victims and restore the temple as a place of worship. While there were still tears and red eyes, many participants said healing was under way. Visitors removed their shoes outside and filed past portraits of the victims, shuffling down a flower-lined aisle into the main prayer room. They dropped dollar bills in front of a shrine where their holy book sits and bowed for two to three seconds. Then they sat on the floor—women on the left, men on the right—their heads covered with scarves, and listened as a priest recited religious hymns.

Chimp escapes Las Vegas backyard—again

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A chimpanzee who rampaged through a Las Vegas neighborhood last month made a second escape from her backyard enclosure this weekend, but her caretaker thinks she had human help this time. Timmi De Rosa says the 13-year-old chimp, CJ, didn't get loose Saturday by bending steel bars without help. She thinks someone let CJ out of her cage. De Rosa says the 180-pound animal was captured quickly and was never a threat to neighbors. The chimp was turned over to an animal entertainer for safekeeping before going to a sanctuary in Oregon.

Social Security surplus dwarfed by future deficit

WASHINGTON (AP)—As millions of baby boomers flood Social Security with applications for benefits, the program's $2.7 trillion surplus is starting to look small.

For nearly three decades Social Security produced big surpluses, collecting more in taxes from workers than it paid in benefits to retirees, disabled workers, spouses and children. The surpluses also helped mask the size of the budget deficit being generated by the rest of the federal government.

Those days are over.

Since 2010, Social Security has been paying out more in benefits than it collects in taxes, adding to the urgency for Congress to address the program's long-term finances.

"To me, urgent doesn't begin to describe it," said Chuck Blahous, one of the public trustees who oversee Social Security. "I would say we're somewhere between critical and too late to deal with it."

The Social Security trustees project the surplus will be gone in 2033. Unless Congress acts, Social Security would only collect enough tax revenue each year to pay about 75 percent of benefits, triggering an automatic reduction.

Lawmakers from both political parties say they want to avoid such a dramatic benefit cut for people who have retired and might not have the means to make up the lost income. Still, that scenario is more than two decades away, which is why many in Congress are willing to put off changes.

But once the surplus is spent, the annual funding gaps start off big and grow fast, which could make them hard to rein in if Congress procrastinates.

The projected shortfall in 2033 is $623 billion, according to the trustees' latest report. It reaches $1 trillion in 2045 and nearly $7 trillion in 2086, the end of a 75-year period used by Social Security's number crunchers because it covers the retirement years of just about everyone working today.

Add up 75 years' worth of shortfalls and you get an astonishing figure: $134 trillion. Adjusted for inflation, that's $30.5 trillion in 2012 dollars, or eight times the size of this year's entire federal budget.

Tea party evolves, achieves state policy victories

ATLANTA (AP)—Tea party activists in Georgia helped kill a proposed sales tax increase that would have raised billions of dollars for transportation projects. In Pennsylvania, tea partyers pushed to have taxpayers send public school children to private schools. In Ohio, they drove a referendum to block state health insurance mandates.

These and other battles are evidence of the latest phase of the conservative movement, influencing state and local policy, perhaps more effectively than on a national level. Tea party organizers are refocusing, sometimes without the party label, to build broader support for their initiatives. The strategy has produced victories that activists say prove their staying power.

"I call it Tea Party 2.0," said Amy Kremer, a Delta flight attendant who leads Tea Party Express. The California-based group, co-founded by GOP strategist Sal Russo, claims it's the largest tea party political action committee.

The movement first showed its strength in Washington in 2009 as an umbrella for voters angry over President George W. Bush's Wall Street rescue and President Barack Obama's stimulus package and auto manufacturer bailout, as well as the health care debate.

The tea party has helped elect members of the House, but they've contributed to the stalemate on Capitol Hill. No single Republican presidential candidate captured tea partyers' wholehearted support, despite angst over Mitt Romney and his moderate record while Massachusetts governor. Without a clear rival, Romney, author of the state health care overhaul that served as a model for Obama's, emerged from a crowded field to challenge the Democratic incumbent in November. Romney gave the hard right at least a symbolic win by announcing Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, a tea party hero, as his running mate Saturday.

Asia

Japan's economy slows, grows 1.4 pct in April-June

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy grew at a slower-than-expected annualized rate of 1.4 percent in April-June, adding to worries over the global outlook, as consumer spending flagged following a rebound earlier in the year from last year's earthquake and tsunami disasters.

The protracted crisis in Europe took a heavy toll, also, as feeble demand hit Japan's export sector.

Although the pace of growth dropped sharply from a revised 5.5 percent in the previous quarter, the economics minister, Motohisa Furukawa, struck an upbeat tone, saying in a statement that the economy "continues in an uptrend, led by domestic demand."

The fact that the economy expanded, on top of the robust growth for the previous quarter, is a positive sign, said Junko Nishioka, an economist at RBS Japan Securities.

Government subsidies for purchases of energy efficient vehicles are still helping support growth, she said. The economy will also be buttressed by strong public investment, which is due to peak in October-December, she said.

However, Nishioka said the risk of worsening deflation is a "pessimistic result" that might prompt Japan's central bank to consider further easing of monetary policy to support growth. Deflation, or falling prices, is a chronic problem for Japan and can be a drag on economic growth.

Consumer spending makes up more than half of Japan's economic activity. After the March 11 disaster last year, many Japanese held back on spending and excursions, adding to damage from disruptions to manufacturing from the twin disasters in northeastern Japan, where many auto and electronics plants ground to a halt.

Robust public investment in reconstruction of housing and other buildings in the devastated northeastern region is likely to wane in coming months, further reducing momentum. Meanwhile, the strong Japanese yen has clobbered exports, and costs for importing fuel to offset lost generation capacity from closed nuclear power plants have mounted.

Japan's economy grew 0.3 in the quarter ending in June from 1.0 percent in January-March. That was lower than economists' forecasts of over 2 percent, and translates to a 1.4 percent expansion in annualized terms.

The latest growth marks a fourth straight quarter of growth, although still at fragile rates. The economy was virtually flat in October-December but did not shrink.

Opposition leader Suu Kyi meets Myanmar president

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi held her first talks with the country's president Sunday since becoming a member of parliament.

She and President Thein Sein discussed a wide range of issues but details of the two-hour meeting were confidential, said Col. Zaw Htay, director of the president's office. The talks took place in the capital, Naypyitaw, where parliament is currently in session.

Also present at the meeting were senior Cabinet ministers Aung Min and Soe Thane, who head the government's peace committee that has brokered several cease-fires with ethnic groups. The pacts are seen as major steps toward ending long-running insurgencies.

Nyan Win, spokesman for Suu Kyi's opposition party, called Sunday's meeting "most welcome" but said he had no immediate details.

Thein Sein and Suu Kyi are key players in Myanmar's political transformation after a half-century of military rule. They have met on two previous occasions, most recently in April. That meeting followed by-elections won by Suu Kyi's party but preceded her entry to parliament.

Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, now heads the main opposition group with 43 seats in parliament, which is overwhelmingly dominated by allies of the former military regime. Last week, she was named head of a 15-member parliamentary committee that is tasked with the challenge of helping to implement rule of law in the country.

Suu Kyi has long struggled for democratic rule and spent about 15 years under house arrest during the former military regime. Her party boycotted a November 2010 general election, saying it was unfair and undemocratic.

But when Thein Sein, a former general and prime minister, became president last year, he introduced reforms that eased the political landscape after almost five decades of military repression.

The international community has praised the reforms, but human rights groups say the government and army continue to commit human rights abuses in isolated areas away from international view.

Suu Kyi's party platform included three main objectives: to seek an end to ethnic conflicts, to try to achieve peace and rule of law and to amend the country's constitution.

ASIA BRIEFS

New storm dumps rain in flood-battered PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A new storm is forecast to dump more rain in the flood-battered northern Philippines a week after nearly 100 people died in a monsoon deluge that submerged half of the sprawling capital city. Officials in Cavite province southwest of Manila closed schools in Rosario town Monday because of downpours, and rescuers began evacuating landslide-prone areas in Manila's suburban Quezon City. The weather agency says Tropical Depression Helen is whirling over the Pacific Ocean with sustained winds of 55 kilometers (34 miles) per hour and will become a tropical storm. It's unlikely to hit land, but will bring heavy to intense monsoon rains.

Bird flu claims 9th victim in Indonesia this year

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The Health Ministry says bird flu has killed a 37-year-old man in central Indonesia, marking the country's ninth fatality this year. The Ministry's website said Monday that the man died July 30 in Yogyakarta province after being hospitalized for five days. It confirmed that the man who lived near a chicken slaughterhouse was infected with the H5N1 virus after apparently coming into contact with sick birds. The virus, which began ravaging poultry across Asia in 2003, remains entrenched in Indonesia. Experts fear it could mutate into a form that passes easily among people, potentially sparking a pandemic. But most human cases have been linked to contact with sick birds.

Strong earthquake reported in far-western China

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese officials say a strong earthquake has struck a remote area of the country's far-western Xinjiang region. The government earthquake monitoring center said the quake registered magnitude 6.2 and hit Sunday evening. It said it was centered 282 kilometers (175 miles) southeast of the oasis city of Hotan. The area is deep in the thinly populated Kunlun mountains. There were no initial reports of damage or injuries from the quake. However, its depth was measured at a relatively shallow 30 kilometers (19 miles), increasing the likelihood of damage.

World

Residents describe terror of Iran quake, 250 die

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Residents of the zone in northwestern Iran hit by powerful twin earthquakes described moments of terror and panic with birds crowing loudly in warning seconds before the ground shook. As the death toll rose Sunday to more than 250 with entire villages leveled, rescuers called off searches for survivors and turned their attention to caring for the 16,000 people left homeless.

■ ■ ■

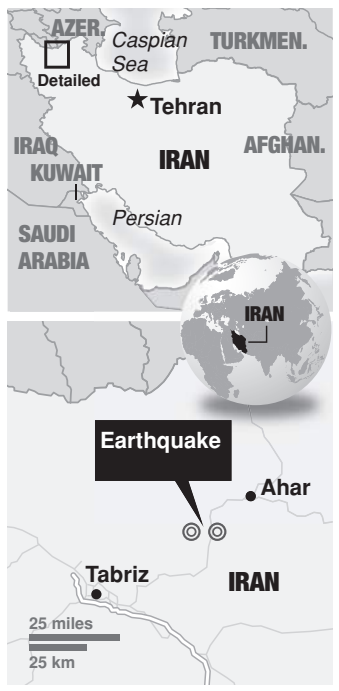
TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran has raised the death toll from Saturday's twin earthquakes to 306, a day after rescuers called off the search for survivors.

Heath Minister Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi told a session of parliament Monday that the number jumped by about 50 after victims expired in the hospital. More than 3,000 people were injured in the earthquakes.

Scores of aftershocks have coursed through Iran's mountainous northeast since the 6.4 and 6.3 magnitude quakes hit the region, where some 300,000 people live near the borders with Azerbaijan and Armenia.

■ ■ ■

At least 20 villages were totally destroyed in the quakes on Saturday that were followed by some 36 aftershocks, state television reported. Ahmad Reza Shajiei, a senior government official in charge of rescue operations, said more than 5,000 tents have been set up to shelter the thousands of displaced who spent the night outdoors.



Source: USGS, Google Maps
Graphic: Khang Nguyen, Los Angeles Times
© 2012 MCT

"The moment the earthquake hit, it was like a snake biting from underground. It was the worst experience of my life," said resident Morteza Javid, 47, from Ahar.

"The walls were shaking and moving from side to side. It took about a minute before I could run out of the house," he said. "Seconds before the earthquake, crows were making a lot of noise, but I didn't understand why. It was only after the quake that I learned the crows were warning us." Javid said he drove more than a dozen injured people to hospitals during the night.

State television said at least 250 died. The semiofficial Mehr news agency quoted a local official who put the toll at 277. State TV said 44,000 food packages and thousands of blankets have been distributed in the stricken area.

In Washington, the White House press secretary sent a message of sympathy for the victims.

"Our thoughts are with the families of those who were lost, and we wish the wounded a speedy recovery," it said." We stand ready to offer assistance in this difficult time."

The U.S. and Iran are locked in a bitter fight over Tehran's disputed nuclear program, which the West suspect is aimed at producing weapons. Iran denies the allegation.

The U.N. also issued a message of sympathy and offered aid.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported that Saturday's first quake was magnitude 6.4 and struck 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of the city of Tabriz at a depth of 9.9 kilometers (6.2 miles). State TV quoted local Crisis Committee chief Khalil Saei as saying the epicenter was a region between the towns of Ahar and Haris, about 600 kilometers (350 miles) northwest of the capital Tehran.

Syrian opposition leader calls for no-fly zone

BEIRUT (AP)—The head of Syria's main opposition group in exile called Sunday for international powers to impose a no-fly zone in border areas to protect civilians who are coming under increasingly intense attacks by regime warplanes and helicopters.

The president of the Syrian National Council, Abdelbaset Sieda, told The Associated Press that such a move by the international community would show President Bashar Assad's regime that his opponents around the world are serious.

The Syrian opposition has been calling for a no-fly zone over Syria for months. But Sieda renewed the plea a day after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Washington and Turkey were discussing a range of steps including a no-fly zone over some parts of Syria as the regime increasingly uses its air force to attack rebels.

"There must be special protection," Sieda said by telephone. "The numbers of martyrs are increasing and destruction too. If the country keeps going this way, then we are heading to a catastrophe."

Asked who will impose the no-fly zone, Sieda said: "We leave it to the international community."

Russia and China have vetoed attempts to pass tough U.N. Security Council resolutions aimed at Assad's regime. Last week, the U.N. and Arab League envoy to Syria, Kofi Annan, announced his resignation, following a frustrating six-month effort that failed to achieve even a temporary cease-fire.

Egypt's president seizes powers back from military

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's Islamist president ordered the retirement of the defense minister and chief of staff on Sunday and made the boldest move so far to seize back powers that the military stripped from his office right before he took over.

Mohammed Morsi has been locked in a power struggle with the military since he took office on June 30. But after militants killed 16 Egyptian soldiers a week ago at a border post with Israel in Sinai, he has sought more aggressively to assert his authority over the top generals.

He fired the nation's intelligence chief a few days ago and made two highly publicized visits to Sinai in the company of top commanders. He also chaired several meetings with the military brass and made a point of calling himself the supreme commander of the armed forces in televised speeches.

It was not immediately clear whether Morsi's surprise decisions had the military's blessing. But the appointment of outgoing Defense Minister Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi and Chief of Staff Gen. Sami Annan as presidential advisers and awarding them some of the nation's highest honors suggested they may have agreed, perhaps grudgingly, in advance.

Egypt's official Middle East News Agency, quoting an unnamed military official in a brief report, said late Sunday that Morsi's moves were "deliberated and coordinated" in advance. It said there were no "negative reactions" from within the military.

Focus

Woe and opportunity: Tales from historic drought

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP)—The United States is in the midst of the worst drought in decades, and the dry weather and soaring temperatures are taking a toll on people living and working in Ohio west to California and Texas north to the Dakotas. Farmers have watched their corn wither and their cattle go hungry. Homeowners have seen their lawns turn brown and gardens wilt. Communities in the Midwest that rarely experience water shortages have enacted restrictions, and businesses are looking for ways to stay afloat as sales fall off. Here are a few of their stories:

AP

This photo from July 31, 2012 shows a beached air boat as bathers walk in the nearly dry Platte River near Yutan, Neb., Tuesday, July 31, 2012. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor survey shows an increase in extreme drought conditions in four Plains states but a slight decrease in the overall area of the lower 48 states experiencing some form of drought.

WATER FOR QUARTERS

The creeks and ponds that Cimeron Frost's 300 cows and calves drink from in central Illinois are almost dry.

So each day, he takes rolls of quarters to what amounts to water vending machines in nearby towns. He drops in the coins, collects the water in metal and plastic tanks and tows it on trailers to his pastures around the town of Tallula. He hauls 4,000 gallons a day in four separate trips, dumping or piping the water into big, galvanized-steel troughs for his herd to drink.

Even at 40 to 50 gallons per quarter, it adds up.

"It takes a little over two rolls of quarters a day, plus probably $40 in gasoline a day, to water all our cows in all our locations," Frost, 65, said. At $10 a roll, that's about 60 bucks a day, or $420 a week, and he's been hauling every day since mid-June.

He estimates he has spent about $2,700 so far. But he worries more about what could lie ahead.

"If we don't have a wet fall and a wet spring, we could be in trouble for another year," Frost said.

BUY NOW, PLANT LATER

Jeff Gatewood has never seen a summer this bad in 36 years at Allisonville Nursery in the Indianapolis suburb of Fishers.

Indianapolis had its hottest July on record, with temperatures topping 90 degrees on 28 days, and less than an inch of rain fell in June and July.

"We've now gone where nobody's gone before. Hot, dry, hot, dry, record-setting all the time," Gatewood said.

With business down 20 percent to 30 percent because of the weather, he quit ordering new plants in June and cut hours and staff. Then he decided to get creative.

The nursery held a "heat stroke" sale in late July, offering customers a chance to buy plants and pick them up later, once cooler temperatures arrive and local watering bans are lifted. That brought people in and helped business some, he said.

"We're seeing a pent-up demand like a dam wanting to break. I think once we see cooler temperatures in the lower 80s, get a little rain shower—that's going to help," he said.

The nursery has clustered plants in shaded areas to protect them. Gatewood said hydrangeas are especially vulnerable.

"Even in the shade, when it's 95 or 100, they hate it," he said.

Jeni O'Malley in
Indianapolis

CREATIVE FORECASTING

Facing three minutes to fill on the nightly newscast, a TV station blog to update and a forecast reading something like "sunny and 102" for the umpteenth day in a row, meteorologist Todd Yakoubian doesn't sweat. He pulls out a meat thermometer.

"I try to keep it as interesting as possible," said Yakoubian, a meteorologist with KATV in Little Rock, Ark. "You can't do the same thing day in and day out."

To illustrate just how hot it has been in Arkansas, and for how long, Yakoubian recently filled a sink in his home with water from the "cold" tap and measured it at a not-very-refreshing 84 degrees. He also has fried eggs on a sidewalk and baked cookies in a car, but admits everybody does that. He's on a quest to find other ways to show just how doggone hot the dog days are.

"I put a wireless thermometer in the attic and hooked up a webcam and streamed it for "How Hot Is It In Todd's Attic?"

The answer: 138.6 degrees.

He also took temperature readings in his wife's car to show viewers how dangerous it was to leave children or animals in vehicles that can reach 130 degrees.

"I used a meat thermometer because it was the only one I had that would go that high," Yakoubian said.

Kelly Kissel in
Little Rock, Ark.

A SILVER LINING

There may be a silver lining to the drought: The so-called "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico is shrinking and the summer has seen fewer tornadoes.

The dead zone is an area of low oxygen in the waters that is a long-standing environmental problem, which experts say is caused by farm pollution running into the Mississippi River and then the Gulf of Mexico. But with less rain, there is less runoff.

Nancy Rabalais, a dead zone expert with the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, found the dead zone was the fourth smallest in 80 years of records. It measured only 2,889 square miles in July, compared to a five-year average of 5,695 square miles.

Tornado Alley also has been quiet this summer. In mid-April, the U.S. looked like it was on pace to set a record with the number of tornadoes this year. Then the storms stopped coming.

In June, there were about 100 tornadoes, the second fewest in more than 60 years of record-keeping. Then in July it got even slower, with a preliminary count of 24. Before this year, the fewest tornadoes the U.S. had in July was 73.

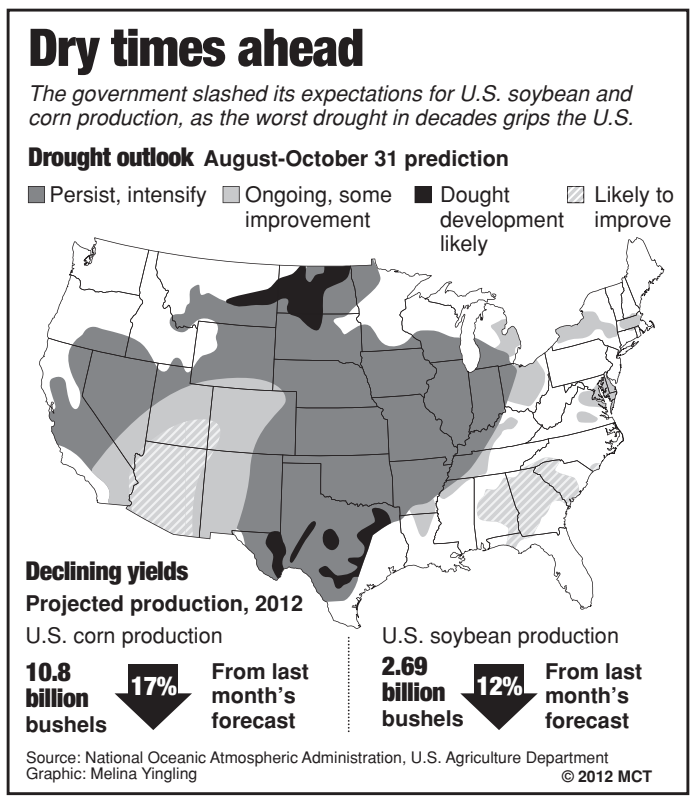
The heat wave and drought are the primary reason for fewer twisters, said Harold Brooks, a research meteorologist at the National Severe Storm Laboratory in Norman, Okla.

In a drought, there are fewer thunderstorms from which tornadoes can form. But there's also less wind shear, which storms need to get rotation for tornadoes, said Jeff Masters, meteorology director at Weather Underground.

But exchanging tornadoes for drought and extreme heat is not a good trade. Tornadoes typically kill one or two people each July, but the heat waves are killing dozens.

"I think heat waves are the most dangerous weather phenomena out there," Masters said.

Seth Borenstein in
Washington, D.C.


Dry times ahead
The government slashed its expectations for U.S. soybean and corn production, as the worst drought in decades grips the U.S.
Drought outlook August-October 31 prediction
Persist, intensify
Ongoing, some improvement
Dought development likely
Likely to improve
Declining yields
Projected production, 2012
U.S. corn production
10.8 billion bushels
17%
From last month's forecast
U.S. soybean production
2.69 billion bushels
12%
From last month's forecast
Source: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Agriculture Department
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2012 MCT

WEEPING WILLOWS

The limbs of the weeping willows gracing banks of a lake at the Chicago Botanic Gardens drooped more than usual, and the leaves—normally plush and green—wilted and began to fall after several weeks of unusual heat.

Weeping willows are water-loving trees, said Tim Johnson, horticulture director for the botanic gardens: "When things dried down, they responded. The leaves yellowed up and some dropped."

Many of the gardens' 2.5 million plants have required extra watering during the summer's triple-digit heat, but the willows were a special case. Groundskeepers have been excessively watering the willows about once a week for about a month, drawing water from several lakes on the property to deluge the roots for about 30 minutes.

One tree that was in particularly bad shape required 850 gallons of water, an amount that usually hydrates several miles on the 385-acre reserve, during one watering alone.

Still, the foliage wilts.

"The damage has been done," Johnson said.

Michelle Nealy in Chicago

RESOURCE RATIONING

Randy Pettinghill buys water from the city of Morrilton for his farm in the Arkansas River Valley, but this year, the city put a cap on what he could have. It turns on the spigot every third night from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., and Pettinghill collects as much as he can in lagoons on his property in Arkansas' Conway County.

He tries to ration the water, but with the temperature regularly over 100 degrees, he's losing a lot to evaporation.

He has wells on his property too. He spent $25,000 to have the second one drilled in July because the first was producing half its normal amount of water. He connected the two, and they still aren't producing enough to keep his corn and soybeans irrigated. He left about two-fifths of his 1,700 acres unplanted this year, and he's been pumping water onto the rest, spending $22,000 a month for fuel.

"If I run out of water, they'll be dead in two weeks," he said.

Charles Bartels in
Little Rock, Ark.

CASHING IN

For some, the drought will likely be a money-maker—especially those who fall outside the dry-weather zone.

One of those farmers is Harlan Anderson. The rainfall on his 800-acre farm near Cokato in southern Minnesota has been normal, maybe a bit more. That means he'll have alfalfa, corn and soybeans to sell when others don't, and he'll benefit from rising prices.

But demonstrating what he described as his Scandinavian sense of reserve, Anderson said he feels a little guilty when talking about how he expects to profit from the misfortune of other farmers in the Upper Midwest.

"My projection is that our gross profits for the year will double," Anderson said. "The drought has certainly been good to me. Don't say that too loud."

He's started getting frequent calls in recent weeks from livestock farmers around the country. Some usually grow their own feed, while others buy it from farmers like Anderson. All are starting to worry about their supply.

"Looking ahead, they're trying to decide if there's a sufficient supply of feed, can they afford it and are they going to keep feeding their dairy cow or their horse—or are they going to shoot them?" Anderson said.

Patrick Condon in
Minneapolis

Overdrive

Cadillac XTS luxury sedan has elegant lines, comfortable ride

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

The stylish, technically advanced and roomy 2013 Cadillac XTS Platinum AWD luxury sedan is trying to roll a tricky 7-10 split by simultaneously appealing to the brand's longtime customers and attracting new buyers looking for a large luxury sedan.

The 202-inch-long XTS straddles the line between midsize sport sedans like the Audi A6 or BMW 5-series and large luxury sedans such as the Audi A8 and BMW 7-series.

XTS prices start at $44,075 for a front-wheel drive model. All XTS models come with a 304-horsepower 3.6-liter V6 and six-speed automatic transmission. All-wheel drive models start at $50,915.

I tested a loaded XTS Platinum AWD that stickered at $60,385. All prices exclude destination charges. I logged about 1,100 miles on a route that stretched from a snaky Appalachian Mountains road in Georgia to interstate highways and cities.

I enjoyed it thoroughly. The XTS's handling is less involving than midsize sport sedans like the A6, 5-series, and Lexus GS, but trumps them with room, comfort and advanced features.

The XTS has considerably more passenger and luggage room than any midsize sport sedan. Its accommodations are in the same ballpark as large luxury sedans like the A8, 7-series, Lexus LS, and Mercedes S-class, but the XTS costs far less than those cars.

For instance, the 202-inch long XTS is 8.1 inches longer than the A6, and just 0.2-inch shorter than the A8.

This poses a bit of a quandary: Are buyers of large luxury sedans interested in a bargain? If so, Cadillac could benefit from some defections. If they're buying bragging rights as much as they are features and comfort, the XTS's lower price could work against it.

MCT

The 2013 Cadillac XTS is less expensive than its luxury-sedan competitors from BMW, Audi and Lexus.

The XTS's most direct competitor in size and price is the Lincoln MKS sedan. The XTS's exterior design, with long horizontal lines and a lower roof, give the Cadillac a more elegant profile than the chunkier Lincoln. The MKS offers more interior and trunk space than the XTS. The XTS's handling is nimbler than the heavier MKS.

While the XTS is not a sport sedan—its 60/40 weight distribution becomes apparent in hard cornering—it's quick and maneuverable. The automatic suspension quickly and seamlessly adapts to rough road surfaces for a smooth, comfortable ride. The steering has good on-center feel and responds quickly and predictably.

The radar-based forward-collision alert is unobtrusive and effective. The lane-departure warning could use variable settings. It went off too often for my taste in highway driving. I turned it off about an hour into an 800-mile trip. The blind-spot alert works well.

All those safety systems—and front and rear object detection when parking—alert the driver of potential trouble primarily by shaking the seat cushions, via a haptic system, the same technology that vibrates your cell phone.

For instance, if you're in danger of backing into something, the rear of the cushion pulses. Different parts of the cushion move depending on where the threat is.

The system is very intuitive and less distracting than the audible alerts many vehicles use.

A similar haptic system provides excellent feedback from controls in the center stack and touch screen. There are no physical buttons to push for volume, temperature, fan speed, etc. but when you touch the icon, the surface of the panel vibrates to let you know you found the right spot.

This system also proved intuitive and easy to master. It's superior to the feedback-impoverished MyFord and MyLincoln Touch systems that have come in for so much criticism.

Cadillac calls the system CUE, which is short for Cadillac User Experience. CUE also includes excellent voice recognition for hands-free phone calls, programming destinations into the nav system and more. The combination of haptic feedback, excellent voice recognition and steering wheel controls is the best, simplest and easiest to master among leading luxury brands.

The XTS I tested had a roomy and luxurious interior. Leather covered virtually every surface, while black wood, restrained brightwork and a suede-like headliner provided visual accents.

Front and rear passenger room are excellent, as is the space in the 18-cubic-foot trunk. The glovebox location of the single-disc CD player is inconvenient for the driver.

The XTS AWD's EPA fuel economy rating of 17 m.p.g. in the city, 26 on the highway and 20 combined trails the most fuel-efficient big sedans—the AWD MKS, the diesel Mercedes E350 Bluetec 4Matic, and the 2013 Audi A8 3.0T Quattro. It also trails the smaller sport sedans.

However, the Cadillac runs on regular gasoline, while its foreign competitors require more expensive premium. That means it should cost less to fuel than the A8 3.0T. The Cadillac's EPA rating beats the AWD BMW 750i xDrive and Lexus LS 460.

The XTS may be a 'tweener in terms of size and price, but it's a winner when it comes to features, comfort and value.

Mark Phelan is the auto critic for the Detroit Free Press. He can be reached at mmphelan@freepress.com.

NUTS & BOLTS

All-wheel drive five-passenger full-size luxury sedan
Price as tested: $60,385 (excluding destination charge)
Rating: Three out of four stars
Reasons to buy: Features, comfort, passenger and luggage room, value
Shortcomings: Handling, location of CD player, lane-departure alert not adjustable
More Details: Cadillac XTS at a glance
Vehicle type: Front- or all-wheel drive five-passenger luxury sedan
Power: 304-horsepower 3.6-liter V6
Transmission: Six-speed automatic
Price range: $44,075-$60,385 (excluding options and destination charges)
Price as tested: $60,385 (excluding destination charge)
Safety equipment: Antilock brakes; stability control; brake assist; curtain air bags; front-seat side air bags; front knee air bags; high-intensity headlights; twilight-sensing lights; one-year OnStar service; adaptive forward lights; front and rear parking assist; rearview backup camera; collision, lane-departure, blind-spot alerts; theft deterrent system
Specifications as tested:
Engine: 3.6-liter direct-injection DOHC variable timing 24-valve V6.
Power: 304 horsepower at 6,800 r.p.m.; 264 pound-feet of torque at 5,200 r.p.m.
Transmission: Six-speed automatic
EPA fuel economy rating: 17 m.p.g. city/26 highway/20 combined. Regular fuel.
Dimensions:
Wheelbase: 111.7 inches
Length: 202.0 inches
Width: 72.9 inches
Height: 59.4 inches
Curb weight: 4,215 pounds
Where assembled: Oshawa, Ontario, Canada

UNDER THE HOOD

Bumpy road may be cause of tire-pressure light coming on

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Question: After I drive my 2005 Scion TC coupe 15 minutes the tire pressure light comes on, on the dashboard. I have checked and rechecked the tire pressure in all four tires and they are up to spec. Is this dangerous and should I spend the money to have the tire pressure gauges replaced?

Answer: TPMS (Tire Pressure Monitoring System) originated in the mid 1980s on high-end European cars and have been a required element of U.S. light motor vehicles built since September 2007. Many manufacturers voluntarily implemented either direct or indirect systems prior to the required date. Direct TPMS employs pressure sensors within or on each wheel that transmits wireless information to a central receiver. This is the best method, but sensor or sensor battery replacement is a burden and care must be taken not to damage the sensors when installing new tires.

Indirect TPMS takes the cheapo route by using the ABS wheel speed sensors already in place to infer tire pressure. An underinflated tire's smaller diameter results in a higher rotational speed than its siblings, resulting in an illuminated warning lamp. Indirect systems can be fooled by a variety of situations such as differing tire sizes, tread patterns or tread wear, slippery or bumpy roads, trailer towing, unusual speeds and temperature, aggressive cornering, vehicle loading, and a few other less likely scenarios.

Your Scion employs indirect TPMS. In follow-up communication you mentioned the lamp glows steady (blinking indicates a detected system malfunction), two tires required renewal due to tire injury, and you frequently travel over a bumpy road section. You are also familiar with the reset button, which reinitializes the system after tire replacement or an under-inflation warning.

Since you have not encountered a blinking TPMS lamp or an illuminated ABS warning lamp, it appears the Scion's hardware (wheel speed sensors and anti-skid controller) are functioning normally, and the system may be reacting to a condition mentioned above. In the fine print within the re-initialization procedure I noted that it takes over an hour of driving for the procedure to complete. I wonder if you may have missed this and the system has not successfully shaken off a previous issue such as the tire replacement or a bumpy road episode.

After looking over the list of conditions above, attempting a thorough initialization, and avoiding the few bumpy streets you mentioned, should the warning indicator still illuminate I'd want to get a look at the wheel speed sensors, using a pro-grade scan tool (inexpensive consumer-grade OBD-II scan tools look only at engine/emission parameters). Perhaps there could be some glitchiness in a sensor that's too slight for onboard diagnostics to catch, or a particular wheel will show a differing speed due to a tire oddity.

If the tires are properly inflated, this is a nuisance situation only. Having the system cry wolf too many times is a bad deal, as it may train you to not take the light seriously. My gut feeling is the Scion simply doesn't like very bumpy Miller Avenue!

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life&Style

'Happy and glorious' Olympics come to rocking end

LONDON (AP)—With a little British pomp and a lot of British pop, London brought the curtain down on a glorious Olympic Games on Sunday in a spectacular, technicolor pageant of landmarks, lightshows and lots of fun.

The closing ceremony offered a sensory blast including rock 'n' roll rickshaws, dustbin percussionists, an exploding yellow car and a marching band in red tunics and bearskin hats.

The Spice Girls staged a show-stopping reunion, and Monty Python's Eric Idle sauntered through "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life"—accompanied by Roman centurions, Scottish bagpipers and a human cannonball.

It all made for a psychedelic mashup that had 80,000 fans at Olympic Stadium stomping, cheering and singing along. Organizers estimated 300 million or more were watching around the world.

What a way to end a games far more successful than many Londoners expected. Security woes were overcome, and traffic nightmares never materialized. The weather held up, more or less, and British athletes overachieved.

It all came with a price tag of $14 billion—three times the original estimate. But nobody wanted to spoil the fun with such mundane concerns, at least not on this night.

"We lit the flame, and we lit up the world," said London organizing committee chief Sebastian Coe. "When our time came, Britain, we did it right."

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge declared the Olympics over with praise for the athletes.

"Through your commitment to fair play, your respect for opponents, and your grace in defeat as well as in victory, you have earned the right to be called Olympians," he said, adding: "These were happy and glorious games."

But the night was about splash more than speeches.

Festive and fast-moving, the ceremony opened with pop bands Madness, Pet Shop Boys and One Direction, a shout-out to Winston Churchill and a tribute to the Union Jack—the floor of Olympic Stadium floor arranged to resemble the British flag.

Monochrome recreations of London landmarks were covered in newsprint, from Big Ben's clock tower and Tower Bridge to the London Eye ferris wheel and the chubby highrise known as the Gherkin.

Street percussion group Stomp built the noise into a frenzy, and dancers brandished brooms, in a nod to the spontaneous popular movement to clean up London after riots shook neighborhoods not far from Olympic Stadium just a year ago.

Liam Gallagher performed "Wonderwall," a 1990s hit by his former band, Oasis, Muse rocked the house with the hard-edged Olympic anthem "Survival," and Queen guitarist Brian May was joined by singer Jessie J for a crowd-pleasing "We Will Rock You."

The headline performers were each paid a pound, a little more than $1.50.

The night ended with the extinguishing of the multi-petaled Olympic cauldron and a supercharged rendition of "My Generation" and other classics by The Who that had the crowd dancing in the aisles. Confetti rained down, and fireworks lit up the sky.

Prince William's wife, Kate, and Prince Harry took seats next to Rogge. They sang along to "God Save the Queen." There was no sign of the queen herself, who made a memorable mock parachute entrance at the July 27 opening ceremony.

Following Olympic tradition, the 10,800 athletes of the London Games marched in as one rather than with their nations, symbolizing the harmony and friendship inspired by the games.

As the crowd cheered their heroes and flashbulbs rippled through the stadium, the Olympians cheered back, some carrying national flags, others snapping photographs with smartphones and cameras.

They held hands, embraced and carried each other on their shoulders, finally forming a human mosh pit on the field.

The ceremony had something for everyone, from tween girls to 1960s hippies. The face of John Lennon appeared on the stadium floor, assembled by 101 fragments of sculpture, and just as quickly gave way to George Michael, Fatboy Slim and Annie Lennox.

Eight minutes were turned over to Brazil, host of the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro, which delivered an explosion of samba, sequins and Latin cool. Following tradition, the mayor of London handed the Olympic flag off to his Rio counterpart.

Britons, who had fretted for weeks that the games would become a fiasco, were buoyed by their biggest medal haul since 1908—29 golds and 65 medals in all.

The United States edged China in both the gold medal and total medal standings, eclipsing its best performance at an Olympics on foreign soil after the Dream Team narrowly held off Spain in basketball for the country's 46th gold.

While the games may have lacked some of the grandeur of the Beijing Olympics in 2008, there were more than a few unforgettable moments.

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt became an Olympic legend by repeating as champion in both the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints. Michael Phelps ended his long career as the most decorated Olympian in history.

British distance runner Mo Farah became a national treasure by sweeping the 5,000- and 10,000-meter races, and favorite daughter Jessica Ennis became a global phenomenon with her victory in the heptathlon.

Female athletes took center stage in a way they never had before. American gymnast Gabby Douglas soared to gold, the U.S. soccer team made a dramatic march to the championship. Packed houses turned out to watch the new event of women's boxing. And women competed for Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei for the first time.

And then there was Oscar Pistorius, the double-amputee from South Africa running on carbon-fiber blades, who didn't win a medal but nonetheless left a champion. And sprinter Manteo Mitchell, who completed his leg of the 4x400 relay semifinal on a broken leg, allowing his team to qualify and win silver.

Britons seemed exhausted and exhilarated after two glorious weeks in the world's spotlight, and just months after the country celebrated the queen's 60th year on the throne with a magnificent pageant and street parties.

Some at Olympic Park acknowledged happy surprise that not much had gone wrong, and so much had gone right.

"I was a bit worried we wouldn't be able to live up to it," said Phil Akrill of Chichester. "But walking around here it's just unbelievable."

Even non-Brits were proud of their adopted homeland.

"It's just been a really nice thing to see," said Anja Ekelof, a Swede who now lives in Scotland. "The whole country has come together."

AP

The Spice Girls perform during the Closing Ceremony at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Sunday, Aug. 12, 2012, in London.

The Who, One Direction in all-ages Olympic closer

LONDON (AP)—"I'm talking 'bout my generation," sang The Who, capping a raucous, rock 'n' roll Olympic closing ceremony

But which generation? When the band members first sang "My Generation," they were in their 20s. Now they are pushing 70.

Like the Olympic torch passing from one runner to another, the London games' closing ceremony was an all-ages affair designed to show the flame of British creativity leaping from one age group to the next.

The 21-year-old singer Ed Sheeran sang "Wish You Were Here" with members of Pink Floyd and Genesis. Jessie J belted out "We Will Rock You" with Queen's Brian May. The Kaiser Chiefs played The Who's "Pinball Wizard."

The Spice Girls took us back to the "Cool Britannia" 1990s and the Pet Shop Boys to the synth-loving 1980s.

A ceremony that director Kim Gavin called an "elegant mashup" of music and creativity was designed to show that the British Invasion never ended, thank you very much.

"It's about how good British music is in the world, and how global it is," Gavin said a day before the ceremony.

So there was Annie Lennox and George Michael, who got their start in the 80s—but the roars that greeted Michael's "Freedom" and Lennox's "Little Bird" suggested both are still going strong.

If that was too old hat, there was One Direction, boy band of the moment, as well as Tinie Tempah, Jessie J and Taio Cruz—who performed their own songs, then a Bee Gees track from the golden age of disco.

There was Elbow—the kind of serious band music journalists love—as respite for those who probably found the rest a bit cheesy.

And if that was all insufficiently quirky, there was a brass band playing Madness; a Guards band in scarlet tunics and bearskin hats playing Blur; and Monty Python's Eric Idle singing "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" accompanied by centurions, bagpipers and roller-skating nuns.

AP

The Who guitarist Pete Townsend, right, and singer Roger Daltrey perform during the Closing Ceremony at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Monday, Aug. 13, 2012, in London.

We heard the voices and songs of the departed—Queen's Freddie Mercury singing "Bohemian Rhapsody," Liverpool choirs performing John Lennon's "Imagine."

There were some notable absences: No Rolling Stones—the band said they were out of practice. No Elton John, although he did record one of the official games anthems. There was a David Bowie montage, but no Bowie in person.

It wasn't just about the music. Gavin said he wanted to show how "U.K. culture, media, music are locked together to create the next big thing."

So there was a nod to Britain's scandal-tarred but vibrant press, in the newsprint-covered landmarks and vehicles of the opening scene.

There was fashion. We saw 1960s Mods, whose sharply tailored look can be seen in the modern designs of Tom Ford and others. There were images of supermodels in designs by Vivienne Westwood, Paul Smith, Alexander McQueen—and Victoria Beckham, now a designer as well as a Spice Girl.

One of the models was even a Jagger—Georgia May Jagger, daughter of Rolling Stone Mick.

The show rocked the 80,000 spectators inside Olympic Stadium, but didn't get rave reviews from those watching on TV. Some found it too kitschy, or too incomprehensible—youngsters wondering who Ray Davies was, parents scratching their heads at One Direction.

The sarcastic spirit of many British Twitter users—banished for two weeks by the Olympic feel-good factor—was back with a vengeance.

"Embarrass a generation," tweeted film critic Dave Calhoun in a play on the games' official motto: "Inspire a Generation."

That Olympic slogan could also sum up the ceremony's ethos.

Or perhaps, to misquote The Who, the kids are alright—and their parents are, too.

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Bourne Legacy
Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday thru Tuesday 1:05 4:00 7:00
Cast: ast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

Synopsis
The fourth installment of the highly successful Bourne series sees the return of the franchise's screenwriter, Tony Gilroy, this time stepping into the director's seat for an entry which sidelines main character Jason Bourne in order to focus on a fellow estranged assassin (Jeremy Renner). Edward Norton and Rachel Weisz co-star, with Joan Allen and Albert Finney reprising their roles from the previous films.

The Campaign
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday thru Tuesday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Cast: Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
Two powerful CEOs pit a blundering congressman against an unlikely political newcomer in order to seize control of a crucial North Carolina district in this satirical political comedy starring Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis. On the eve of an upcoming election, incumbent congressman Cam Brady (Ferrell) makes a misstep that threatens to end his career in politics. Recognizing the opportunity to gain influence in the aftermath of the public gaffe, a pair of scheming CEOs handpick credulous tourism-center director Marty Huggins (Galifianakis) as Brady's political rival, quickly shaping him into a viable candidate with the help of a seasoned campaign manager. As Election Day draws near, Brady and Huggins cast ethics aside to engage in the brand of hysterical mud-slinging that's sent contemporary politics straight down the toilet.

Total Recall
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:50
Sunday thru Tuesday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel
Science, Fiction • Rated PG13

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday thru Tuesday 1:00 4:20 7:20
Cast: Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Children's/family • Rated PG

The Dark Knight Rises
Friday and Saturday 12:55 4:05 7:10 10:15
Sunday thru Tuesday 12:55 4:05 7:10
Cast: Christian Bale, Michael Caine
Crime, Action • Rated PG13

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift
Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday thru Tuesday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Cast: Ray Romano, John Leguizamo
Children's/family • Rated PG

The Amazing Spider-Man
Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:05 9:55
Sunday thru Tuesday 1:10 4:10 7:05
Cast: Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG13

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Military sexual assault is focus of YouTube series

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The enormous obstacles and emotional torment that a female solider confronts in reporting a sexual assault in the military are the focus of the three-part Web series "Lauren" debuting Monday on YouTube's new channel WIGS, which focuses on drama for women.

AP

This image provided by Kayt Jones shows a scene from YouTube's new channel WIGS' "Lauren," starring Troian Bellisario as a female soldier who reports being raped.

Featuring "Flashdance" star Jennifer Beals and Troian Bellisario, "Lauren" gives a close-up look at the challenges women service members face in trying to find justice after being raped. It's a problem that military leaders have given unprecedented attention to this year.

The Defense Department has estimated that 86 percent of sexual assaults go unreported, an indication that some women are worried about the effect reporting an assault may have on their career and that they mistrust the military prosecution system. Nearly 3,200 sexual assaults were reported in the military last year.

Military leaders say sexual assault is not only dehumanizing to the victims but threatens operational readiness. The Pentagon has set up hotlines and has been trying to encourage service members to help victims. High-ranking Navy leaders have likened their campaign to the crusade years ago to stop rampant drug abuse, although activists say sweeping institutional changes are needed for victims to find justice.

Directed by Lesli Linka Glatter, "Lauren" sets out to show viewers how unfair and unsympathetic the military can be toward the abuse of female service members. At the same time, it depicts the turmoil of many of the victims—who have a deep love and respect for the military but often feel betrayed after coming forward.

The series opens with an Army commanding officer—Maj. Jo Stone, played by Beals—scrutinizing a report made by a sergeant named Lauren about being raped by three fellow soldiers. Stone asks the young soldier if she ever considered a career as a fiction writer and then asks how many drinks she had the night of the "incident." She provides an ominous warning if she pursues her accusations.

"Even if the men are deemed guilty, they're likely to suffer a reprimand or a slight pay cut, nothing more," Stone tells the soldier. "But WHAT will happen to you may expose you to repercussions for your entire career."

After Monday's debut, the second and third episodes in the series will be available Wednesday and Friday.

Beals told The Associated Press her character's words may at first seem hurtful and harsh but later viewers realize it's more complex for the commanding officer, who herself has had to fight her way up through the ranks.

"Even though she seems so hard, there is one little flicker of humanity," Beals said, adding later: "You have to get to the end (of the series) before you realize what the real story is."

Bellisario said in an interview that she was drawn to the script because even though her father, "NCIS" and "JAG" producer Donald P. Bellisario, served in the Marine Corps, she was not aware of the institutional barriers in today's military that deter many female service members from reporting sexual assaults.

"The biggest problem when you're overseas and you're serving, is all you have is the guy or girl next to you and your commanding officer," Bellisario said. "If your commanding officer does not want to do it (report the rape), then you have nowhere else to go."

More than a dozen U.S. veterans who say they were raped or assaulted by comrades filed a class-action suit in federal court last year attempting to force the Pentagon to change how it handles such cases. The current and former service members—15 women and two men—described circumstances in which servicemen allegedly got away with rape and other sexual abuse while their victims were ordered to continue to serve with them. In several cases, the aggressors continued to call them names and taunt them.

Bellisario hopes the series will help push efforts to prevent sexual assault and prosecute it to the full degree.

"My hope is people will see that this is not slandering this great institution but rather holding it up to a high standard and asking it to recognize there is an issue and that it should be addressed," she said. "It's not anti-military at all."

Anuradha Bhagwati is a former Marine Corps captain and executive director of the Service Women's Action Network, which advocates for such policy changes. She was allowed to preview the series and says it gives a realistic picture of what thousands of female service members face, especially its depiction of the retaliation and name calling victims often suffer.

Olympic Viewing: Boxing's decline

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

In an Olympics filled with television success, boxing has been a notable failure.

NBC Sports covered the last two days of the tournament with its two announcers, Bob Papa and Teddy Atlas, not even in London's ExCel Center. International boxing officials asked them to move back from their announcing positions because they were bothering judges; Papa and Atlas decided to leave instead and call the fights off video feeds elsewhere.

Not that anyone probably noticed.

The U.S. men's boxing team was already done, its first Olympics without a medal. The sport that created memorable American heroes with gold medalists Cassius Clay (before he changed his name to Muhammad Ali), Joe Frazier, George Foreman and Sugar Ray Leonard is now virtually invisible as an Olympic event in the U.S.

NBC Sports confines its boxing coverage to CNBC and if you don't actively seek it out, you won't see a punch thrown. The one American boxing hero of London, the country's first woman gold medalist Claressa Shields, merited only one mention on NBC at 11:30 p.m. the night she won. Her picture wasn't shown. The boxing phenomenon of Katie Taylor, a national hero in Ireland, is a complete mystery to U.S. viewers who didn't watch CNBC.

In a year where Olympics ratings were up from four years ago across the board, they were down on CNBC.

The messy tournament has featured one referee expelled, another suspended and 12 protested fights. Papa and Atlas haven't hesitated to describe the messes they see; a New York Daily News columnist said they reacted with passion and power and "deserve a gold medal."

The poor performance of the U.S. team no doubt stifled viewership, and its officials need to take a hard look at how they're doing things, Papa said. Even if there were strong American contenders, the sport is becoming hard to watch.

Papa partly blames decisions to require boxers to wear headgear and score bouts via a computerized count of punches thrown for the sport's downfall. He said it has turned boxing into "fencing with gloves."

"People watch it and they watch it as a boxing match and turn to their friends and say, `OK, that guy clearly won that round,'" he said. "Then the score goes up and it's 7-4 for the other guy. People don't understand it. I think that people know what the sport is supposed to be about."

In other words, if you land a couple more jabs than your opponent but are rocked by a few damaging punches, did you really win the round?

That, and corrupt officials, has led to miscarriages of justice in the boxing result, he said.

"We just feel for these athletes and their amazing stories on their road to the Olympics," he said. "You have to feel for them, because they're leaving it all out in the ring."

Given what is going on with the sport, Papa said he can't rightly complain about its lower profile as a TV property in the Olympics.

"The sport has got to get itself in order to warrant lobbying to get a better profile," he said. "I think you've got to earn your place based on what you're presenting."

WHO PLANNED THIS?: NBC unexpectedly interrupted the closing ceremony to show a preview of its upcoming comedy "Animal Practice" at 11 p.m. EDT, unexpectedly making people waiting to see The Who wait. On a work night. Stunningly poor programming decision—and all it does is wrap a brand new comedy NBC wanted to promote in bad will.

RATINGS: An estimated 21.8 million people watched Saturday night's Olympics telecast on NBC, the last Saturday night of competition. Viewership for the London Olympics is running 12 percent higher than Beijing in 2008, the Nielsen company said.

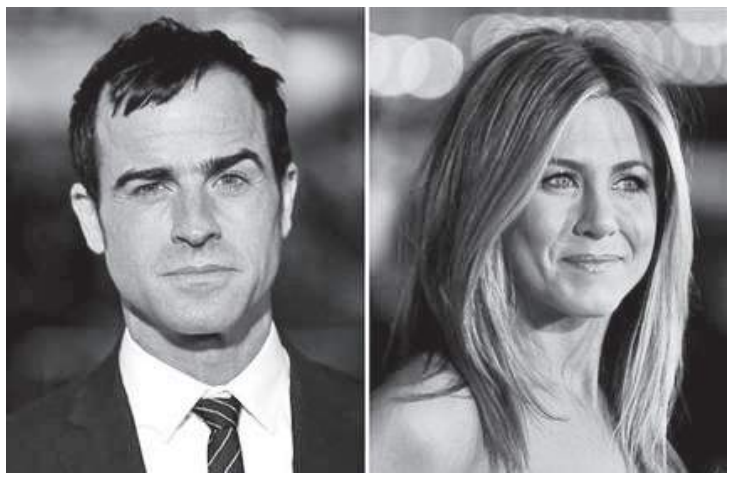
MARATHON MEN: Keen observations by Tim Hutchings, NBC's marathon analyst, on the burst of speed by Uganda's Stephen Kiprotich in the 23rd mile that broke him from the pack and led him to a gold medal in the men's marathon. He saw how Kiprotich suddenly pulled away going into a curve, a move particularly tough for his opponents to combat. "You don't see surges as vicious as that in major marathons," Hutchings said.

Jennifer Aniston, Justin Theroux engaged

NEW YORK (AP)—After years of breathless anticipation—at least on the part of the tabloids—Jennifer Aniston is finally ready to wed again.

Her representative, Stephen Huvane, confirmed Sunday night that the actress is engaged to her boyfriend of more than a year, Justin Theroux.

"Justin Theroux had an amazing birthday on Friday, receiving an extraordinary gift when his girlfriend, Jennifer Aniston, accepted his proposal of marriage," said Theroux's rep in a statement to People, which first reported the engagement.



AP

This combo made from Feb. 16, 2012 file photos shows Justin Theroux, left, and Jennifer Aniston.

Theroux, 41, and Aniston, 43, have known each other for years, but started dating more than a year ago after working on the comedy "Wanderlust." Though that film disappeared quickly from movie theaters after its release earlier this year, the relationship clearly proved to have more staying power. The two moved in together and tabloids soon began predicting everything from marriage to babies for the new couple.

Aniston had been a part of such speculation for years, ever since the demise of her marriage to Brad Pitt after a five-year union in 2005. While Pitt moved on to a long-term relationship with Angelina Jolie, Aniston had high-profile relationships with the likes of John Mayer and Vince Vaughn that didn't last, leading to the common narrative: When will Jen find someone or have a child?

It's a theme that irked the former "Friends" actress.

"It's very narrow-minded, I think. It doesn't measure the level or my happiness or success in my life and my achievements or any of that," she told "CBS This Morning" earlier this year. In the same interview, she said she was happier than she'd ever been.

This will be Theroux's first marriage. It's not clear if a wedding date for the couple had been set.

Aniston's engagement comes four months after Pitt and Jolie announced their engagement.

'Bourne,' 'Campaign' bump Batman from No. 1 spot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Dark Knight Rises" has finally fallen out of first-place at the weekend box office.

Jeremy Renner's action tale "The Bourne Legacy" took over as the No. 1 movie with a $40.3 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis' political comedy "The Campaign" opened at No. 2 with $27.4 million.

The new movies pushed "The Dark Knight Rises" down to third-place with $19.5 million, raising the superhero blockbuster's three-week domestic total to $390.1 million.

The weekend's other new wide release, Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones' marital comic drama "Hope Springs," opened at No. 4 with $15.6 million.

"The Dark Knight Rises" had been the No. 1 movie for three-straight weekends since debuting amid tragedy as a gunman killed 12 people and wounded 58 at a midnight screening of the film on opening day in Colorado.

The violence seems to have had little effect on the runaway success of the Batman finale.

"The opening weekend in our business is very important, and this incident took place before the picture officially opened. It took place at a midnight screening. I can't give you an actual number, but I'm sure we were affected on that opening," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., which released "The Dark Knight Rises."

Universal's "The Bourne Legacy" casts Renner and Rachel Weisz in an offshoot of the three hits that starred Matt Damon as unstoppable operative Jason Bourne. Renner plays an agent pursued by Bourne's old spy masters after they try to snuff out the espionage program in a cover-up conspiracy.

"The Bourne Legacy" came in well behind the $69.3 million debut of Damon's last entry in the series, 2007's "The Bourne Ultimatum." But the new film had a strong start and establishes Renner as a sturdy frontman to keep the franchise running.

AP

This publicity film image released by Universal Pictures shows Jeremy Renner, as Aaron Cross, in a scene from "The Bourne Legacy."

"I love the fact that we were able to reboot this and do as well as we were able to. It leaves it open for us to think about it going forward," said Nikki Rocco, Universal's head of distribution. "We are very much into what it's going to look like the next time."

While Damon was absent, his presence is felt throughout "The Bourne Legacy," with characters commenting on Jason Bourne sightings and his former handlers jittery over the fact that the rogue agent is still out there.

Renner is a bankable star to carry on solo, but Universal might really cash in if the studio managed to lure Damon back.

"The dream-team scenario of a `Bourne' with both Damon and Renner would just be irresistible," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "That would be cool. I'd be first in line for that."

"The Campaign" stars Ferrell and Galifianakis as rivals in a mud-slinging congressional election. Distributor Warner Bros. hopes real-life politics can help keep the movie afloat as the election season enters the homestretch.

"We hope so," Warner distribution boss Fellman said. "We hope they run their campaigns a little more professionally than the one in the movie, but sometimes, you have to wonder."

Sony's "Hope Springs," featuring Streep and Jones as a couple in marriage therapy at a week-long retreat, had a modest start but drew strongly among older women, a crowd that does not tend to rush out in big numbers over opening weekend.

Rory Bruer, Sony's head of distribution, said the studio hopes the film will have a long shelf life at theaters as women talk it up to friends.

"The Dark Knight Rises" is nearing $400 million domestically and will become only the second film in Warner Bros. history to reach that mark. The first was 2008's "The Dark Knight," the middle chapter in director Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy, which topped out at $533.3 million.

Revenues for the finale are running 12 percent behind "The Dark Knight," which had climbed to $441.6 million at the same point in its theatrical run.

While the Colorado shootings may have scared away some viewers, the Olympics have dampened Hollywood's overall business as fans stay home to watch the games. "The Dark Knight" also had an advantage the new film lacks: a mesmerizing, Academy Award-winning performance by Heath Ledger as the Joker, with the actor's death helping to fuel anticipation for the film.

"All things considered, `The Dark Knight Rises' is doing incredibly well," Dergarabedian said.

"The Dark Knight Rises" has proven more popular than its predecessor overseas, where it has taken in $445.3 million to give it a worldwide total of $835 million. The finale is on track to top the $468 million international total of "The Dark Knight."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"The Bourne Legacy,"** $40.3 million ($7.8 million international).
2. **"The Campaign,"** $27.4 million ($2.1 million international).
3. **"The Dark Knight Rises,"** $19.5 million ($34.2 million international).
4. **"Hope Springs,"** $15.6 million.
5. **"Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days,"** $8.2 million ($1 million international).
6. **"Total Recall,"** $8.1 million ($18.7 million international).
7. **"Ice Age: Continental Drift,"** $6.8 million ($16.2 million international).
8. **"Ted,"** $3.3 million ($20.3 million international).
9. **"Step Up: Revolution,"** $2.9 million.
10. **"The Amazing Spider-Man,"** $2.2 million ($3 million international).

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada) for films distributed overseas by Hollywood studios, according to Rentrak:

1. **"The Dark Knight Rises,"** $34.2 million.
2. **"Ted,"** $20.3 million.
3. **"Total Recall,"** $18.7 million.
4. **"Brave,"** $17.2 million.
5. **"Ice Age: Continental Drift,"** $16.2 million.
6. **"Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted,"** $10.1 million.
7. **"Step Up" Revolution,"** $9.9 million.
8. **"The Thieves,"** $9 million.
9 (tie). **"The Bourne Legacy,"** $7.8 million.
9 (tie). **"Prometheus,"** $7.8 million.

Host wants to trim tiny terror from his barbecue guest list

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have thrown a barbecue for all our friends every summer since we were first married. Over the last couple of years, our little party has morphed into a family-friendly event. Our problem is one of our good friends is now the mother of an insufferable 3-year-old boy.

"Fenton's" behavior has been awful for two years. At the last party, he managed to throw our iPod, slam our stereo to the ground, pick up and throw another child and terrorize a gentle dog. He barged in on a nursing mother and refused to leave when asked. We also suspect he was the one who tore our baby gate off its hinges.

The mom is preoccupied with a new baby and deals with the situation by making idle threats. The dad makes jokes about how "it sucks to be a parent" and tells his kid to stop annoying him.

We're pretty sure if Fenton returns for this year's party, many of our other guests won't. We want to remain friends with the mom, so not inviting her isn't an option. Would it be out of line to ask her to leave her husband and the little terror at home?

SMOKIN' MAD IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR SMOKIN' MAD: Which would be worse—to have the woman miffed or to be driven mad by her undisciplined child and the parents' unwillingness to take control? Because the kid causes stress in addition to property damage, leave them off the guest list this year. If she asks why, point out her son was so disruptive you were afraid your other guests would refuse to attend if he was there. Soften the "blow" by assuring her you'd love to see her and her husband for some adult time.

Fenton appears to be a little boy who feels upstaged by the new baby and may be acting up in a desperate bid for attention. It would be a kindness to suggest this to his parents, who appear to be clueless.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single woman who works two jobs and I am constantly on my feet. Because of this I gravitate toward flat-soled shoes. I can't imagine attempting all of the stairs I must climb each day while tottering on a high pair of heels or practically falling off platforms.

I am friendly with two men (casually dating one of them) and each one has reacted negatively to my shoes. One of them said that I obviously don't want to snag a guy because of my footwear, and the other repeated an old joke that, "A lesbian is a woman in comfortable shoes."

I am a straight female who happens to feel more comfortable in flats. High heels might look nice, but they would cause me discomfort and problems during my long workdays. I have explained this to them, but they give me funny looks.

Do flat-soled shoes make you less of a woman or somehow suspect in terms of being "straight"? Does our society view women in comfortable shoes as being possibly lesbian? I find the idea ridiculous, but two different men have come to the same conclusion. I'm confused about their attitudes and would appreciate your ideas.

STEPPING OUT IN MISSOURI

DEAR STEPPING OUT: While it may have been SAID that "clothes make the man" and "a lesbian is a woman in comfortable shoes," neither statement has much bearing on the truth. Women who are on their feet all day—or night, depending upon their profession—should not wear shoes with very high heels. Ask any podiatrist.

P.S. I suspect the two men you mentioned have a shoe fetish. Please wear what is comfortable and don't apologize for it.

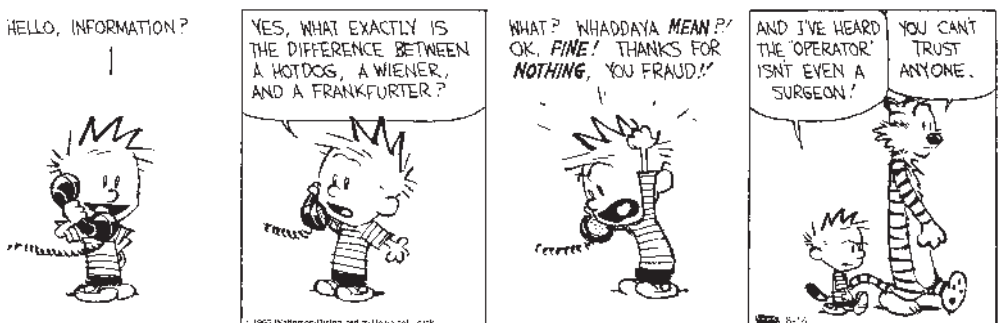
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

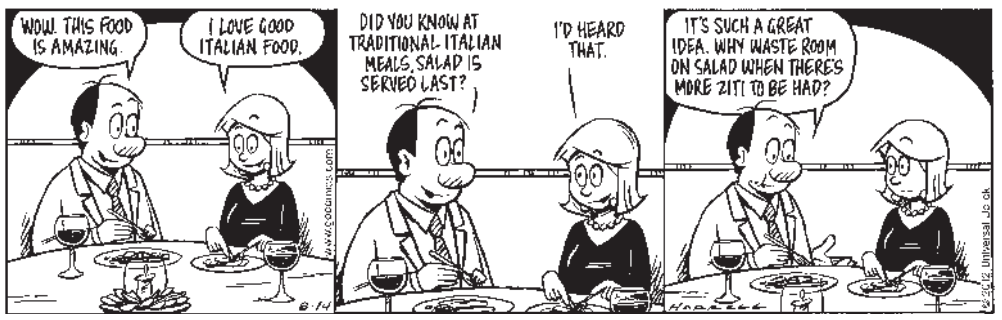

HELLO, INFORMATION?
YES, WHAT EXACTLY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HOTDOG, A WIENER, AND A FRANKFURTER?
WHAT? WHADDAYA MEAN?! OK. FINE! THANKS FOR NOTHING, YOU FRAUD!"
AND I'VE HEARD THE "OPERATOR" ISN'T EVEN A SURGEON!
YOU CAN'T TRUST ANYONE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

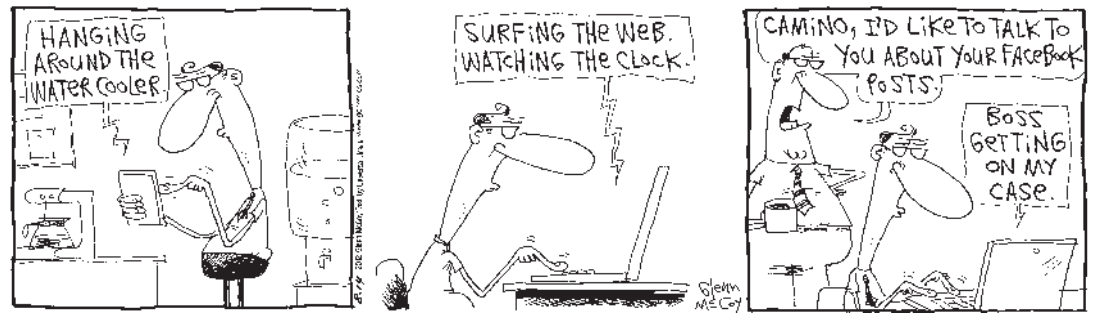
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WOW. THIS FOOD IS AMAZING.
I LOVE GOOD ITALIAN FOOD.
DID YOU KNOW AT TRADITIONAL ITALIAN MEALS, SALAD IS SERVED LAST?
I'D HEARD THAT.
IT'S SUCH A GREAT IDEA. WHY WASTE ROOM ON SALAD WHEN THERE'S MORE ZITI TO BE HAD?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HANGING AROUND THE WATER COOLER
SURFING THE WEB. WATCHING THE CLOCK.
CAMINO, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR FACEBOOK POSTS.
BOSS GETTING ON MY CASE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

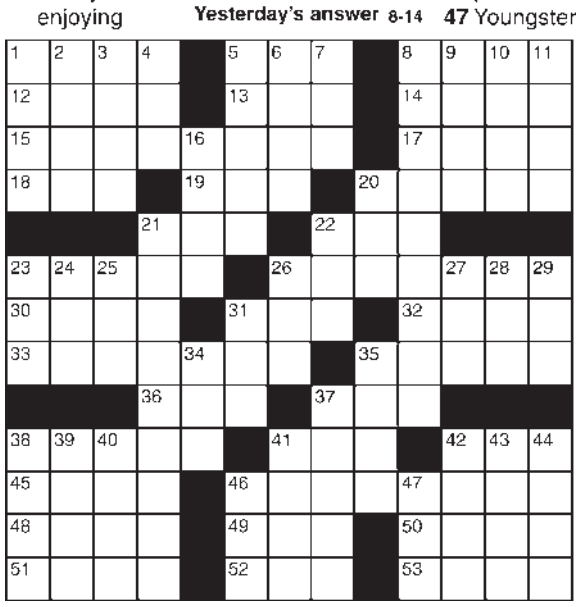
ACROSS
1 Andy's pal of old
5 Comic Margaret
8 Rue the run
12 Cougar
13 Explanation
14 "Animal House" group
15 Voters' choice
17 — accompli
18 Lair
19 Squid squirt
20 Striped animal
21 "CSI" evidence
22 Pen name?
23 Trip around the world?
26 With 6-Down, Peter Pan's foe
30 Bellow
31 Pooch
32 Really enjoying
33 Three-part European union
35 Friars Club event
36 Dove's comment
37 Junior
38 Ashen
41 Suitable
42 Hot tub
45 Wrinkly fruit
46 Ouster
48 "Scat!"
49 Fond du —, WI
50 Leer at
51 Oscar winner Goldie
52 "— Doubtfire"
53 Melt

DOWN
1 Mimicked
2 Stubborn one
3 Portent
4 Pouch
5 Wedgwood product
6 See 26-Across
7 Possess
8 Fondness
9 Grouch
10 Tresses
11 "At Last" singer James
16 Coloration
20 Type of code
21 Way
22 Satchel
23 Scepter topper
24 Fish eggs
25 Prohibit
26 Courteney of "Friends"
27 Literary collection
28 Part of TGIF
29 "To be or — ..."
31 Pair
34 Actress Myrna
35 Campus mil. program
37 Glasses, slangily
38 Shove
39 Old Turkish title
40 Unhurried
41 Open slightly
42 Unspoken "Alas!"
43 Silents star Negri
44 From the beginning
46 Shade provider
47 Youngster

Solution time: 21 mins.

G	O	V			A	S	S		G	A	B	S
A	B	E	L		D	O	H		O	G	L	E
W	O	R	E		E	R	R		I	O	T	A
K	E	B	A	B		I	U	H	N			
			V	I	Z		G	I	G	O	L	O
J	E	Z	E	B	E	L		D	O	R	I	A
A	T	O	M		D	U	B		N	E	E	R
M	A	N	E	S		Z	E	A	L	O	U	S
B	L	E	A	C	H		E	W	E			
			L	I	O	N		L	A	B	O	R
P	O	L	O		I	O	N		V	I	L	E
O	L	A	N		S	U	E		E	D	E	N
E	D	G	E		T	N	T		S	O	T	

Yesterday's answer 8-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tim Tebow, 25; Mila Kunis, 29; Halle Berry, 46; Steve Martin, 67.

Happy Birthday: What you do for others will count this year. Your generosity, concern and ability to find solutions will put you in the spotlight, but make sure your motives are honorable, or the glory you receive may be accompanied by an unexpected cost. Strength will come from doing the right thing for the right price. Your numbers are 8, 13, 15, 22, 32, 36, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Size up your situation quickly, and be prepared to do whatever is necessary to maintain your position. Don't allow anyone the chance to control a situation that will affect your future with regard to your home, family or relationships. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): What you do for others will be impressive. Look at the big picture and you will realize what you must do to regroup and move forward. Don't argue when taking action is what's needed. Love, self-improvement and travel are highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Connect with people from your past. Reminiscing will bring back memories and goals you have yet to accomplish. A change in direction may lead to someone's insecurity, but you must be true to yourself and what you want to achieve. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Positive is the operative word. Your attitude will make a difference to the outcome of any situation you face. Don't allow uncertainty to stop you from getting ahead. Love is in the stars, so make your move and make someone special happy. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Creative accounting or investing will bring financial progress. Taking quick action will help you bypass being left out. Keep everything out in the open and you will be kept in the loop, privy to secret information. Greater stability will develop. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do whatever it takes to lend a helping hand. Your gesture will be welcome, as long as you don't attach stipulations that change the course of your relationship with the person or organization you assist. Love and romance should be scheduled. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't share personal information with peers or colleagues. Being overly emotional can affect your reputation. Put your energy into learning, engaging in conversations, expressing concerns and offering solutions. A change of heart is likely. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Express your concerns with actions, not words. Be original in the way you handle others and in how you live your life. A love relationship will contribute to your ability to reach personal goals faster. Don't make impulsive purchases. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Share your thoughts and you will broaden your outlook, attitude and ability to diversify. Changes you make at home based on the information you receive will make you realize what you've been missing. Recognize problems and regroup. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't elaborate and you will avoid opposition. Stick close to home and steer clear of authority figures or unwanted additional responsibilities. Concentrate on what you need to finish. Show affection instead of talking about what you want to do. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Trust your ability to make do with what you have. You will impress the people around you and gain popularity amongst your peers. The changes you suggest will enable you to improve your status. Greater responsibility and more cash are heading your way. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Question your motives before you make a decision to change direction or travel to some place remote or repressive. Focus on people and situations closer to home that can bring you greater happiness. Avoid excessive behavior. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate and clever. You are original and creative.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2			3		
	3		9	1		4	8	
4	7							
				5			9	1
	8			2			6	
7	1			8				
							4	5
	5	4		3	7		2	
		9			1			

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	3	4	1	6	5	2	9
1	4	5	7	9	2	3	6	8
2	6	9	5	8	3	4	7	1
5	3	8	9	2	4	6	1	7
6	2	4	1	5	7	9	8	3
9	1	7	3	6	8	2	5	4
3	8	1	2	4	5	7	9	6
4	5	6	8	7	9	1	3	2
7	9	2	6	3	1	8	4	5

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FAMOUS KINGS AND QUEENS Solution: 9 letters

E	M	Y	R	R	A	L	A	L	B	I	H	C	K	N
H	E	T	R	A	P	A	N	O	B	Z	E	R	I	E
S	I	A	A	A	B	A	N	R	K	U	N	O	N	L
I	J	S	S	E	M	B	E	I	I	F	R	W	G	E
F	I	I	E	E	A	H	T	K	N	U	Y	N	L	H
E	D	U	A	M	T	I	I	F	G	H	I	O	E	A
R	E	O	C	U	T	N	V	N	I	K	C	A	A	F
D	R	L	L	R	G	I	I	K	N	G	R	R	R	I
I	E	Q	E	T	C	K	I	E	N	T	N	T	B	T
N	V	F	U	T	R	N	H	I	S	O	O	A	R	A
A	E	T	O	E	G	P	K	T	I	T	R	P	U	L
N	N	R	G	K	E	D	A	L	H	C	A	O	H	A
D	I	R	O	T	L	N	G	E	O	R	G	E	T	D
A	U	N	S	O	D	Y	S	S	E	U	S	L	R	Y
B	G	N	I	K	N	O	D	H	T	E	B	C	A	M

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 8/14

Anne, Arthur, BB King, Bonaparte, Burger King, Caesar, Cleopatra, Crab, Crown, Don King, Ferdinand, Fish, George, Gift, Guinevere, Hearts, Helen, Henry, Khufu, King Kong, King Lear, King Tut, Lady, Larry, Latifah, Lion, Louis, Luther, Mab, Macbeth, Mary, Maude, Meiji, Name, Nefertiti, Nora, Odysseus, Old King Cole, Queens, Stand, Stephen King, Victoria

Yesterday's Answer: American Jackal

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volumes 24 & 25 are now available at bookstores everywhere. To order, send $6.00 each (US funds only) plus $2.50 per book for shipping to: Puzzle Me Twice Books, P.O. Box 536, Cedar Springs, MI 49319. Or call toll-free, 1-800-462-6420. Or order online at www.puzzlemetwice.com. Volumes 1 through 23 are also available at $6.00 each plus $2.50 per book for shipping.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
Flavor of the month

Yesterday's solution: Wine list

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(2) Sales Representative (2) Fisherman. Minimum salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O.Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950.

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Saipan Tribune

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Zhen, Zhentao and Xu, Sugun
PMB 589 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-2838

Pro-Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: Z.J. (d.o.b. 10/28/2003) Minor Child, By: Zhen, Zhentao and Xu, Sugun Petitioners.	)))))))))	**FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0246** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 23, 2012, at 10:30 am in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 17th day of July, 2012.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

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MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, -v- **MARIANO S. NAPUTI,** Defendant	)))))))	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-0382** **EIGHTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 3, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, and containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990, as Document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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The Law Offices Of Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6547
Fax: (670) 234-9537

Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, -v- KARMINA I OKAMURA, ALFRED A. PANGELINAN, and the MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND CORPORATION, Defendants.	)))))))	CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0074 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, KARMINA I. OKAMURA:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated July 12, 2012 by order of the Court:

/s/Clerk of Court

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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The flagrance of war
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners

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McIlroy wins PGA Championship by record 8 strokes

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—Rory McIlroy dressed the part as golf's next star and played like it, too.

Saving his bright red shirt for Sunday in the PGA Championship, McIlroy never gave anyone much of a chance. Two exquisite shots with the wedge set up back-to-back birdies to seize control of the final round. He never made a bogey over the final 23 holes of his marathon day.

McIlroy validated his eight-shot win at the U.S. Open last year by blowing away the field at Kiawah Island, making the 23-year-old from Northern Ireland the youngest player since Seve Ballesteros to win two majors. Tiger Woods was about four months older than McIlroy when he won his second major.

"I think I heard Tiger say, `You can have a good season, but to make a good season a great season, you need a major championship,'" said McIlroy, who returned to No. 1 in the world. "Now I've had two great seasons in a row no matter what happens from here in now. Hopefully, I can play some great golf from now until the end of the year and get myself ready for another great season next year, too."

Standing on the 18th tee with a seven-shot lead, McIlroy turned to caddie J.P. Fitzgerald and said, "I'm going to win this one by eight, as well."

McIlroy rolled in a 25-foot birdie putt, raising the putter in his left hand as the ball rolled true to the center of the cup, saving enough strength to lift the heavy Wanamaker Trophy after another command performance in a major championship.

He shattered the scoring record at the U.S. Open. He broke Jack Nicklaus' record in the PGA Championship for margin of victory.

McIlroy took the lead for good Sunday morning with back-to-back birdies on the back nine to finish a rain-delayed third round at 67 for a three-shot lead. No one got closer than two shots at any point in the final round, and that last birdie gave McIlroy a 6-under 66.

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland reacts to his victory after a birdie putt on the 18th green during the final round of the PGA Championship golf tournament on the Ocean Course of the Kiawah Island Golf Resort in Kiawah Island, S.C., Sunday, Aug. 12, 2012.

David Lynn, a 38-year-old from England who was playing in America for the first time, won the B-flight. He closed with a 68 and was the runner-up.

Woods, who shared the 36-hole lead for the second time this year in a major, was never a serious factor. He tossed away his chances Saturday before the storm blew in and never could get closer than four shots. He closed with a 72, failing to break par on the weekend in any of the four majors for the first time in his career.

McIlroy was 13 shots better than Woods over the last two rounds.

"It was a great round of golf. I'm speechless," McIlroy said after hoisting the trophy. "It's just been incredible. I had a good feeling about it at the start. I never imagined to do this."

Winning the final major the year ends what had been a tumultuous season for McIlroy. Despite winning the Honda Classic in early March and going to No. 1 for the first time in his career, he went into a tail spin by missing four cuts over five tournaments as questions swirled that his romance with tennis star Caroline Wozniacki was hurting his game.

Instead, McIlroy put a big hurt on the strongest field of the year.

"I was a little frustrated with how I was playing earlier on in the year, but a few people in this room were probably pushing panic buttons for no reason," McIlroy said. "It's just great to be able to put my name on another major championship trophy, and looking forward to April next year and getting a crack at another one."

Woods predicted greatness for McIlroy when he first came to America at 19.

"He's very good. We all know the talent he has," Woods said. "He went through a little spell this year, and I think that was good for him. We all go through those spells in our careers. He's got all the talent in the world to do what he's doing. And this is the way that Rory can play. When he gets it going, it's pretty impressive to watch."

McIlroy finished on 13-under 275.

Ian Poulter put up the stiffest challenge, though not for long. Poulter, who started the final round six shots behind, made six birdies through seven holes to get within two shots. He made three straight bogeys on the back nine and had to settle for a 69. He tied for third at 4-under 284, along with Justin Rose (66) and defending champion Keegan Bradley (68).

In the final qualifying event for the U.S. Ryder Cup team, nothing changed.

Phil Mickelson was holding down the eighth and final spot, and he stayed there when neither Bo Van Pelt nor Steve Stricker could make a move on the back nine. Davis Love III will announce four captains' picks in three weeks.

McIlroy was tied for the lead with Vijay Singh when they returned Sunday. Twenty-seven holes later, McIlroy had no peer in the final major of the year.

When he won the U.S. Open last year, Padraig Harrington suggested that perhaps McIlroy - not Woods - might be the one to challenge the record 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus. That looked like nothing more than one Irishman boosting another when McIlroy didn't come close in the next five majors.

But now?

"I think winning his second major is going to make things a lot easier for him," Harrington said. "I think last year he proved it, but there's been ups and downs since his last major win because of the pressure and the expectations and the hype. Now he's delivered again. It's going to be a lot easier for him going forward. And he'll get better."

Woods won his second major in his 12th try as a pro. McIlroy won his second in his 16th major.

"It's tough to say that Rory is a Tiger Woods type player," said Graeme McDowell, McIlroy's closest friend on tour. "Tiger Woods is a once-in-a-lifetime player, and Rory is at least a once-in-a-decade type player. He's that good. ... He's going to be a superstar of game, which he already is. But he's a real superstar now."

McIlroy went out in 33, saving par with a 10-foot putt on the ninth hole. That's what Woods used to do in the majors.

Capuano holds Miami hitless until 7th, Dodgers win

MIAMI (AP) — Chris Capuano held Miami hitless until the seventh inning and Hanley Ramirez drove in three runs against his former team as the Los Angeles Dodgers downed the Miami Marlins 5-0 Sunday.

Capuano (11-8) shut down the Marlins until Jose Reyes lined a clean single to center field with one out in the seventh.

Capuano allowed two hits in eight innings, striking out nine.

Reds 3, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Johnny Cueto allowed just three hits over eight innings, and Jay Bruce and Ryan Ludwick homered as Cincinnati beat Chicago.

Cueto (15-6) moved into a tie with New York's R.A. Dickey for the NL lead in victories. He retired the Cubs in order in four of the first five innings.

Brewers 5, Astros 3

In Houston, Yovani Gallardo handled Houston once again and Corey Hart homered as Milwaukee broke an 11-game road losing streak.

Milwaukee won on the road for the first time since July 8 at Houston in its last game before the All-Star break.

Pirates 11, Padres 5

In Pittsburgh, Clint Barmes' first career grand slam sparked a nine-run fourth inning and Neil Walker went 5 for 5 as the Pirates rallied past San Diego.

Walker homered and doubled as the Pirates overcame an early 5-0 deficit and ended San Diego's six-game winning streak. The Padres had won 11 in a row at Pittsburgh dating to 2009.

Phillies 8, Cardinals 7, 11 innings

In Philadelphia, Juan Pierre beat out a run-scoring infield single in the 11th inning to lift Philadelphia to a win over St. Louis.

Jimmy Rollins reached against Barret Browning (0-2) on a fielder's choice. He advanced to second base on a grounder and then stole third.

Diamondbacks 7, Nationals 4

In Phoenix, rookie Patrick Corbin allowed four hits through seven innings as Arizona snapped the Nationals' season-high winning streak at eight games.

Corbin (4-4) retired 16 in a row after Bryce Harper's infield single in the first. The 23-year-old right-hander gave up two runs, struck out seven and walked none.

Mets 6, Braves 5

In New York, Jonathon Niese allowed six hits over eight innings, and David Wright sparked the offense with a pair of doubles against Ben Sheets, as New York just hung on to beat Atlanta and salvage the finale of a three-game series.

Niese (9-6) matched the second-longest outing of his big league career.

Giants 9, Rockies 6

In San Francisco, Hunter Pence hit a three-run homer during a five-run rally in the eighth inning that lifted San Francisco over Colorado.

Buster Posey's sacrifice fly in the eighth tied it. Melky Cabrera, who had an RBI single in the comeback, drove in three runs.

Rangers 8, Tigers 3

In Texas, Josh Hamilton hit his 32nd homer and drove in three runs, and Yu Darvish struck out eight as the Texas Rangers beat the Detroit Tigers, 8-3.

Hamilton had a two-run drive in the first inning, taking the major league lead and matching his career high.

Mariners 4, Angels 1

In Anaheim, California, Jesus Montero homered twice off major league ERA leader Jered Weaver, and Jason Vargas outpitched his former Long Beach State teammate to lift Seattle over Anaheim.

Weaver (15-2) had won nine straight outings.

Orioles 5, Royals 3

In Baltimore, Manny Machado hit his third homer in four major league games and Nick Markakis also connected as Baltimore got four hitless innings from their bullpen in a victory over Kansas City.

Machado hit a two-run homer in the second off former Orioles pitcher Bruce Chen (8-10).

Blue Jays 10, Yankees 7

In Toronto, Rajai Davis doubled twice, matched a career high with five RBIs and made a sparkling catch as Toronto beat New York and snapped a five-game losing streak.

Davis scaled the left-field wall in the seventh to snare a potential long ball off the bat of Casey McGehee. Davis also stole his 33rd base.

Red Sox 14, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Jon Lester struck out 12 over six innings for his first win in six weeks as Boston salvaged a four-game split by routing Cleveland.

Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer and two-run double. Carl Crawford had three doubles and three RBIs.

Rays 7, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Jeff Keppinger homered and doubled, then drove in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning as the Tampa Bay beat Minnesota for their sixth straight win.

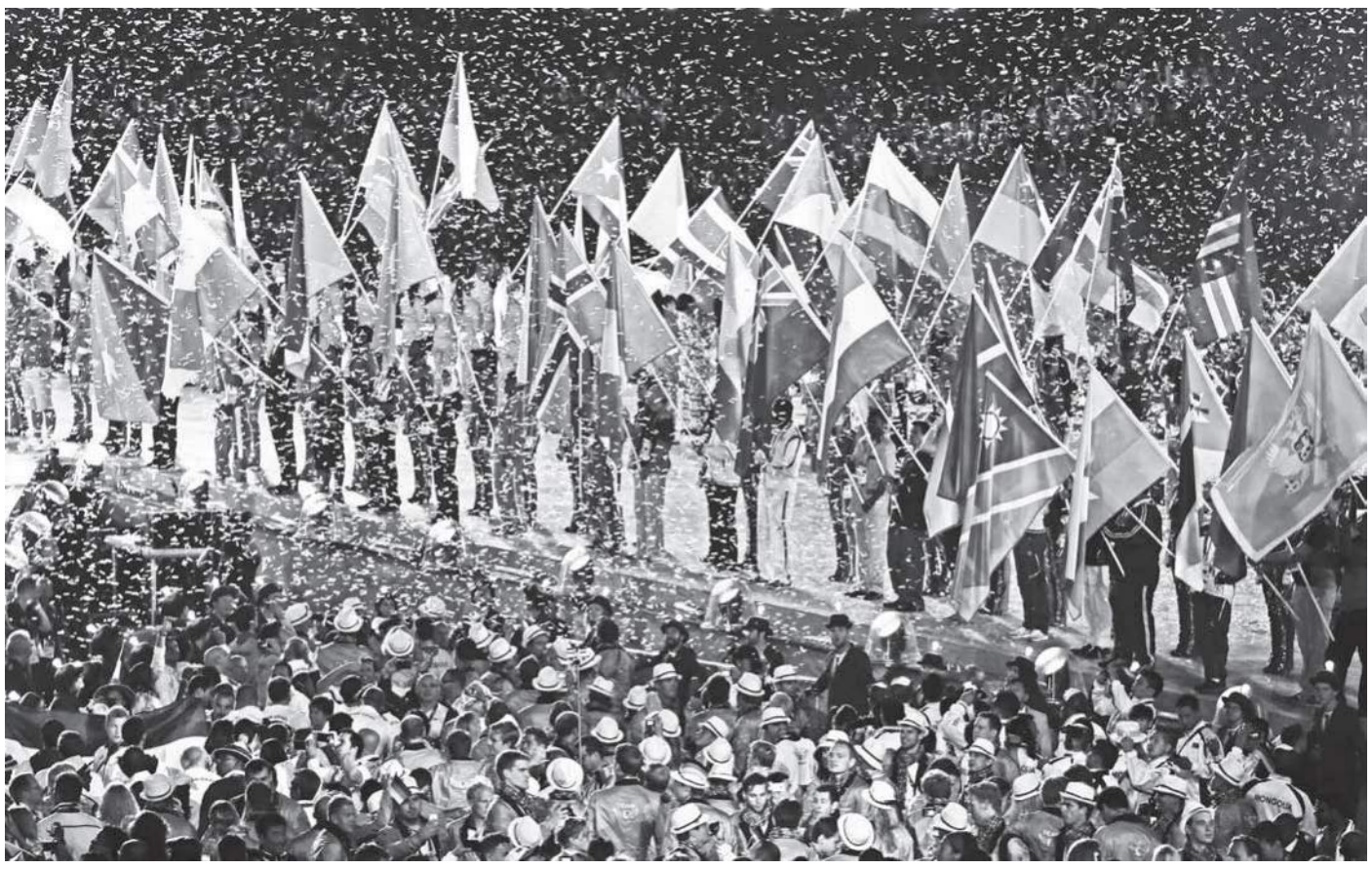
Ryan Roberts had three hits, including a two-run single in the 10th.

White Sox 7, Athletics 3

In Chicago, Chris Sale struck out 11 in 6 2-3 innings, A.J. Pierzynski had a two-run home run in a five-run sixth inning as Chicago beat Oakland.

Sale (14-3) reached double digits in strikeouts for the third time this season. He fanned 10 in the first five innings, allowed two runs on solo homer and walked none.

US tops medal count, but British celebrate as well



Athletes march into stadium during the Closing Ceremony at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Sunday, Aug. 12, 2012, in London. AP

LONDON (AP)—Red, white and blue was everywhere in London.

For the Americans—and for the British, too.

The most medals, and the most gold medals. That's what the U.S. Olympic Team wanted, and it's what they delivered. As for the home team? Riding the wave of home-field advantage, the British put together their best Olympic showing in over a century.

The competition is over. The U.S. was best, but the success stories from London truly spanned the globe.

"I think these games were absolutely fabulous," International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said.

The final numbers: 104 medals for the United States, 46 of them gold, their highest total at a "road" Olympics. China won 87 medals, 38 of them gold, down from what they did as the home team in 2008. Britain won 29 golds, third-most of any nation, and 65 overall - fourth in that category behind Russia, a winner of 82 medals, 24 gold.

Grenada had its first gold medalist, and six other nations sent athletes to the Olympic podium for the first time. Meanwhile, Australia took another step back in its Olympic freefall after a scintillating show in Sydney 12 years ago.

In all, 85 nations won something in London, from the U.S. to Tajikistan and dozens of points in between.

"We are immensely proud of the success that our athletes had in London," U.S. Olympic Committee CEO Scott Blackmun said Sunday.

So were the hosts, who delivered on a promise of greatness in 2012.

"What I've witnessed in the last couple of weeks has been both uplifting and energizing," London Games chief Sebastian Coe said. "I don't think any country that has staged the games or any city that staged the games is ever the same afterwards."

Neither are the athletes who win them. A boxer from Thailand protested losing a gold-medal fight to a Chinese opponent, and shed tears of disbelief when the decision was announced. He cried again 10 minutes later, holding his silver medal for the first time.

"I'm happy. I'm still really happy that I've got this silver medal," said the Thai fighter, Kaeo Pongprayoon. "I'm really proud. It might not be gold, but it's a medal I can bring back to the Thai people."

The U.S. brought a whole slew of hardware back to the American people. The 46 golds in London were one more than the gold haul from Paris in 1924 and Mexico City in 1968.

LeBron James recognized that winning gold means more than, well, winning gold. He and the U.S. men's basketball team won the Americans' final Olympic title in London on Sunday afternoon.

"It means more than myself, it means more than my name on my back," James said. "It means everything to the name on the front."

The final numbers for the Americans in London won't go down as record-setting for all Olympics.

They won 83 golds (174 overall) at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, boycotted by most of the Soviet bloc countries; and 78 golds (a whopping 239 overall) at the 1904 St. Louis Games, when U.S. athletes won roughly seven out of every eight medals.

Different eras, different dynamics. By any measure, 2012 will be considered a success for the U.S. Many thought the Chinese would go home with more medals than the Americans, and that didn't come close to happening.

"We're Americans and we're human," said Teresa Edwards, the five-time Olympian for U.S. basketball. "When I was competing, when I went up against another country, I felt they wanted the same thing I wanted. But we were given an opportunity to prove it at that moment, and that's what these games give us."

Michael Phelps ended his Olympic career in London with a record 22 medals, the last six of them won here, the most of any athlete in London, as his amazing run ended with - what else?—a splash. Four other athletes in London won five medals, three of them American swimmers, including 17-year-old Missy Franklin.

Swimming and track combined to deliver 60 medals for the U.S., and to the athletes, the medal count most definitely mattered.

"I do feel it's important for us to be the No. 1 team because we've held that title and to lose that title would be somewhat disappointing," said Dee Dee Trotter, who won gold on the U.S. 4x400-meter relay team. "We just want to maintain the level of talent and the level of medals we always bring home, and if we fall short, that would mean we're not bringing our 'A' game."

Australia's medal total, seven, was just half of the number from Beijing—and the Aussies won no individual gold medals in the swimming pool for the first time since 1976, something that would have seemed unthinkable a few years ago when the likes of Ian Thorpe were among the world's very best.

The Summer Olympics next hit Brazil, site of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games. And the Brazilians are already focusing on making sure their athletes win plenty of hardware when the games are on home turf.

They have some work to do over the next four years, in addition to all the construction that comes with getting ready for sport's largest spectacle. The Brazilians won three golds in London, those coming in women's volleyball, judo and gymnastics, and their overall medal haul of 17 was its best at an Olympics.

Still, that's not exactly what fans of the home team at an Olympics have come to expect. The Brazilians already have plans in place for an Olympic Training Center to be built in Rio, and funding for athletes and teams will likely be unprecedented for the South American nation.

"We need gold medals up front," Rogge said. "That is so important for the mood of the public, of the general atmosphere of the games."

Bolt lights up Olympic track; what about 2016?

LONDON (AP)—Toting his third gold medal of the London Games, Usain Bolt gave a little wave to 80,000 or so of his best friends in the Olympic Stadium stands.

Almost immediately, the questions started: What did that mean? Was Bolt bidding adieu for good? Will he be back? Will the world get to watch him sprint on his sport's biggest stage again in 2016?

"It was a goodbye to London. I was just having fun with the crowd," the Jamaican explained. "I came here to London to become a legend, and I am a legend, and I wanted to thank them for supporting me."

He accomplished exactly what he wanted to at the 2012 Olympics.

Three events—the 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 relay—and three victories. Plenty of pre- and postrace preening.

Just like at Beijing in 2008.

As for trying to go for a Triple Triple four years from now, Bolt insisted Rio de Janeiro isn't necessarily in the offing.

"The possibility is there, but it's going to be very hard. ... I've done all I want to do," said Bolt, who turns 26 on Aug. 21. "I've got no more goals."

He came up with three remarkable runs, improving his career mark to 6 for 6 in Olympic finals.

In more than a century of modern Olympics, no man had set world records while winning the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay - until Bolt did it in Beijing.

None had won the 200 meters twice, let alone completed a 100-200 double twice - until Bolt did so in 2008 and 2012.

Now he's added a second consecutive sprint relay title, too, pulling away down the stretch and bringing his best right through the finish line to close the track schedule Saturday night with a world record in the relay.

"When he got the stick," said Tyson Gay, part of the U.S. team that finished second, "there was nothing we could do about it."

Looking ahead to Rio, Bolt pointed out that he'll turn 30 that year, while the closest thing he has to a rival, training partner Yohan Blake, will only be 26.

It was Blake who beat his buddy in the 100 and 200 finals at the Jamaican Olympic trials, raising the idea in some minds that Bolt could have trouble in London.

So much for that.

Bolt won the Olympic 100 in 9.63 seconds - the second-fastest dash in history, behind his own record of 9.58 - and the 200 in 19.32, with Blake taking silver in both races.

"It's been so incredible watching him," said U.S swimmer Missy Franklin, who won four gold medals in the pool. "There was one day when he walked into the dining hall and every athlete in there just started clapping and cheering and going crazy."

Even those other athletes are among those curious about Bolt's future. Maybe he'll take up the long jump. Maybe the 400 (although he says that's too much of a grind for his tastes).

"It's very, very difficult to predict what's going to happen in four years. For Usain, he's just enjoying the moment and living in today. What he's accomplished is enough. He's done so much for our sport, and he's definitely a living legend. Whatever he decides in the future is more than icing on the cake, if he decides to come back," said Sanya Richards-Ross, who won gold medals in the 400 and the 4x400 relay for the United States. "I don't think he can do any wrong in most people's minds."

Count NBC, the network paying more than $1 billion for the U.S. TV rights to the 2016 Games, among those hoping Bolt will stick around.

"Usain Bolt is a firmly established star in a sport that receives unprecedented interest from the American audience during the Olympics and, as such, it would be great to see him in Rio," NBC Olympics executive producer Jim Bell said Sunday.

Richards-Ross helped the U.S. end up with 29 medals in track and field this time, six more than in Beijing and the most at an Olympics since the 30 at Barcelona in 1992.

"I felt like something special was going to happen," she said. "Everybody was really focused and encouraging each other throughout the journey."

With victories in the 200 meters, 4x100 and 4x400, Allyson Felix became the first U.S. female track athlete to win three golds at a single Summer Games since Florence Griffith-Joyner in 1988.

What was expected to be a fast track was the scene for three worlds records - Bolt's Jamaican team in the men's 4x100 relay, Felix's U.S. quartet in the women's 4x100 relay, and Kenya's David Rudisha in the 800 meters, a run that International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge singled out as a "magic moment."

There were others:

■ The morning session of Day 1 on the track—often a quiet, sleepy, sparsely attended affair at the Olympics—was a rollicking, must-see event with nary an empty seat, thanks in large part to Britain's Jessica Ennis, who ran a heptathlon-record time in the 100-meter hurdles to get things going. Turned out to be merely a prelude to the thrills and deafening roars the following night, when in the span of less than an hour, the host country earned three golds: from Ennis in the heptathlon, Greg Rutherford in the long jump, and Mo Farah in the 10,000 meters (he would go on to add the 5,000 title, too).

■ South Africa's Oscar Pistorius, aka "Blade Runner," who became the first amputee to compete on the track at an Olympics, his carbon-fiber prosthetics clack-clacking as he qualified for the 400-meter semifinals.

■ Manteo Mitchell of the U.S. running the last half-lap of the opening leg in 4x400-meter relay preliminaries after hearing and feeling his left fibula snap. "Even though track is an individual sport, you've got three guys depending on you, the whole world watching you," Mitchell said. "You don't want to let anyone down."

LONDON

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panied by Roman centurions, Scottish bagpipers and a human cannonball.

It all made for a madcap mashup that had 80,000 fans at Olympic Stadium stomping, cheering and singing along. Organizers estimated 300 million or more were watching around the world.

What a way to end a games far more successful than many Londoners expected. Early security glitches were conquered with the help of the military, road traffic was manageable and the wettest early summer on record gave way to mostly sunny skies. More importantly, British athletes overachieved.

It all came with a price tag of $14 billion - three times the original estimate. But nobody wanted to spoil the fun with such mundane concerns, at least not on this night.

"We lit the flame, and we lit up the world," said London organizing committee chief Sebastian Coe. "When our time came, Britain, we did it right."

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge declared the Olympics over with praise for the athletes.

"Through your commitment to fair play, your respect for opponents, and your grace in defeat as well as in victory, you have earned the right to be called Olympians," he said, adding: "These were happy and glorious games."

But the night was about splash more than speeches.

Festive and fast-moving, the ceremony opened with pop bands Madness, Pet Shop Boys and One Direction, a shout-out to Winston Churchill and a tribute to the Union Jack - the Olympic Stadium floor arranged to resemble the British flag.

Monochrome recreations of London landmarks were covered in newsprint, from Big Ben's clock tower and Tower Bridge to the London Eye ferris wheel and the chubby high-rise known as the Gherkin.

Street percussion group Stomp built the noise into a frenzy, and dancers brandished brooms, in a nod to the spontaneous popular movement to clean up London after riots shook neighborhoods not far from Olympic Stadium just a year ago.

Liam Gallagher performed "Wonderwall," a 1990s hit by his former band, Oasis, Muse rocked the house with the hard-edged Olympic anthem "Survival," and Queen guitarist Brian May was joined by singer Jessie J for a crowd-pleasing "We Will Rock You."

The headline performers were each paid a pound, a little more than $1.50.

The night ended with the extinguishing of the multi-petaled Olympic cauldron and a supercharged rendition of "My Generation" and other classics by The Who that had the crowd dancing in the aisles. Confetti rained down, and fireworks lit up the sky.

Prince William's wife, Kate, and Prince Harry took seats next to Rogge. They sang along to "God Save the Queen." There was no sign of the queen herself, who made a memorable mock parachute entrance at the July 27 opening ceremony.

Following Olympic tradition, the 10,800 athletes of the London Games marched in as one rather than with their nations, symbolizing the harmony and friendship inspired by the games.

As the crowd cheered their heroes and flashbulbs rippled through the stadium, the Olympians cheered back, some carrying national flags, others snapping photographs with smartphones and cameras.

They held hands, embraced and carried each other on their shoulders, finally forming a human mosh pit on the field.

The ceremony had something for everyone, from tween girls to 1960s hippies. The face of John Lennon appeared on the stadium floor, assembled by 101 fragments of sculpture, and just as quickly gave way to George Michael, Fatboy Slim and Annie Lennox.

Britons, who had fretted for weeks that the games would become a fiasco, were buoyed by their biggest medal haul since 1908 - 29 golds and 65 medals in all.

The United States edged China in both the gold medal and total medal standings, eclipsing its best performance at an Olympics on foreign soil after the Dream Team narrowly held off Spain in basketball for the country's 46th gold.

While the games may have lacked some of the grandeur of the Beijing Olympics in 2008, there were more than a few unforgettable moments.

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt became an Olympic legend by repeating as champion in both the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints. Michael Phelps ended his long career as the most decorated Olympian in history.

British distance runner Mo Farah became a national treasure by sweeping the 5,000- and 10,000-meter races, and favorite daughter Jessica Ennis became a global phenomenon with her victory in the heptathlon.

Female athletes took center stage in a way they never had before. American gymnast Gabby Douglas soared to gold and the U.S. soccer team made a dramatic march to the championship. Packed houses turned out to watch the new event of women's boxing. And women competed for Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei for the first time.

eft a champion. And sprinter Manteo Mitchell, who completed his leg of the 4x400 relay semifinal on a broken leg, allowing his team to qualify and win silver.

Britons seemed exhausted and exhilarated after two glorious weeks in the world's spotlight, just months after the country celebrated the queen's 60th year on the throne with a magnificent pageant and street parties.

Some at Olympic Park acknowledged happy surprise that not much had gone wrong, and so much had gone right.

"I was a bit worried we wouldn't be able to live up to it," said Phil Akrill of Chichester. "But walking around here it's just unbelievable."

Even non-Brits were proud of their adopted homeland.

"It's just been a really nice thing to see," said Anja Ekelof, a Swede who now lives in Scotland. "The whole country has come together."

LEBRON

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Same result, too.

The Americans defended their title Sunday by fighting off another huge challenge from Spain, pulling away in the final minutes for a 107-100 victory and their second straight Olympic championship.

And just like 2008, the star-studded Americans had to work for this one.

The London 2012 daily magazine proclaimed them "the new Dream Team" in an article, but the real Dream Team never had a game like this 20 years ago in Barcelona. And if that means this group isn't worthy of the comparisons to Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Co., the players had their own response.

"Everybody wants to make that comparison, but at the end of the day we're both wearing these," forward Kevin Love said, pulling on his gold medal. "That's pretty good."

James capped one of basketball's most brilliant individual years with a monster dunk and a huge 3-pointer in the final 2:50 that finally ended a Spanish threat few expected after the Americans had been so dominant for so long in London.

Yet four years after beating Spain 118-107 in a classic in Beijing, the U.S. found itself in another tight one, unable to ever really slow the Spanish down until the closing minutes.

Kevin Durant scored 30 points and James had 19 on a day he joined Jordan as the only players to win the NBA title, regular-season MVP, NBA Finals MVP and Olympic gold in the same year.

"It was a good year. It was a great year for me as an individual," James said. "But this right here, it means more than myself, it means more than my name on my back. It means everything to the name on the front. I'm happy that I was able to contribute to this great team. It's one of the best teams ever."

Coach Mike Krzyzewski, who has said he's retiring as national team coach after restoring the Americans to their place atop world basketball, emptied his bench in the final minute

James stood with both arms in the air, then held Durant in a long hug before they came off the court.

The Americans, who insisted they were better than their 2008 version and even good enough to take a game from the 1992 Dream Team, may not have been at that level.

Still, they were better again than Spain—though not by much.

When the final horn sounded, Krzyzewski locked James in a tight embrace as Bruce Springsteen's "Born In The USA" rocked the arena.

The Americans hugged at midcourt, guard James Harden holding a doll of the Olympic mascot, and then after being handed flags, this group of NBA players—and one kid just out of college—who grew into a tight-knit group during their time together, paraded around the floor, the Stars and Stripes flowing off their backs like capes.

Yes, they were Olympic superheroes again, but they had to fight until the finish.

"To do it twice is a special moment," Carmelo Anthony said. "As the U.S. men's team, we go through a lot. For us to persevere the way we did is just a special moment for myself, and for the guys who are on this team."

For Kobe Bryant, it was his last Olympic moment.

"This is it for me," said Bryant, who scored 17 points and now has a second gold medal to go with his five NBA championships. "The other guys are good to go."

Pau Gasol scored 24 points and Juan Carlos Navarro had 21 for Spain, which was again just a few minutes from its first basketball gold but couldn't finish the job against the Americans.

The U.S. came in averaging nearly 117 points and stomping on their competition with such ease that even the Olympics' own daily preview had a hard time envisioning intrigue, writing that it would "likely take a great game from Spain and an off-day from the USA to cause an upset."

Well, Spain brought the great game and trailed by only a point heading into the fourth quarter.

But the Spanish somehow lost sight of James, and the game's best player drove uncontested and threw it down for a 99-91 lead with 2:48 left. After Marc Gasol dunked, James dribbled outside the circle with Marc Gasol giving him just a bit too much room, and James pulled up for the 3 that made it 102-93 with 1:59 to play.

Pau Gasol then was called for an offensive foul on a pick, and the Americans could sense that it was over.

Gasol, who carried the flag for Spain in the opening ceremony, nearly carried his country to its greatest Olympic basketball glory, but had a big miss inside with Spain down by six about three minutes to go, screaming out loud in frustration as he went back down the court.

"I am disappointed, but on the other side I'm very proud how of the we competed, how we played," Gasol said. "We fought for 40 minutes. I am proud of having another Olympic medal around my neck.

"It's disappointing because I thought we had our chance. We were right there pretty much the entire game. We let them get away in the fourth and we couldn't get back."

It was the 14th gold medal for the Americans, who lost at least five players who might have been on the team when Dwight Howard, Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and Derrick Rose had to pull out with injuries and Blake Griffin was hurt in training camp.

Along the way, they showed they could be vulnerable during their exhibition schedule, falling into early holes against Brazil and Spain, having to hold on against Argentina.

DODGERS

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away, 11-6, in the fifth with a second three-run spark. Nathan Camacho and Jobe Reyes reached with a hit and a walk and were doubled home by Guerrero, who scored soon after off a wild pitch.

The Dodgers then added another three runs in the top of the sixth inning from a pair of RBI singles by Nathan Camacho and Reyes in their second at bats.

The Rockies trailed, 10-14, after the bottom half, primarily off walks and errors, but the Dodgers pulled it together in the final stand. The Dodgers broke off a three-run chunk in the top of the seventh and secured the win.

The Rockies left 13 runners stranded, and despite being outhit, 11-6, they tallied 18 bases on balls.

Dodgers' Guerrero batted 3-for-5 with five RBIs, while Jhace Palacios scored three runs.

Orioles 6, Reds 5

The visiting Orioles' Poland Masaharu and TJ Sablan broke the ice for the first run in the second inning. However, the Reds countered with two runs in the bottom frame off of a pair of RBI singles by Keene Guerrero and Lancaster Secharmedal for a 2-1 lead.

After a quiet third frame, the Orioles managed to pepper five runs in the top of the fourth inning mainly with patience at the plate. They worked out three walks and a hit-by-pitch, which later led to an RBI single from Mike Muna.

The Reds then held off the Orioles at the start of the fifth and made it a one-run game before heavy rain caused the early decision. By rule, a game can be declared official as the result of bad weather upon completion of five innings.

Three walks, a passed ball, a wild pitch, and a RBI base knock by Peter Lieto fell one run short in the Reds' final stand.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

OLYMPICS FINAL MEDAL TALLY

Rank	Country	G	S	B	T
1	United States	46	29	29	104
2	China	38	27	22	87
3	Russia	24	25	33	82
4	Great Britain	29	17	19	65
5	Germany	11	19	14	44
6	Japan	7	14	17	38
7	Australia	7	16	12	35
8	France	11	11	12	34
9	South Korea	13	8	7	28
10	Italy	8	9	11	28
11	Netherlands	6	6	8	20
12	Ukraine	6	5	9	20
13	Canada	1	5	12	18
14	Hungary	8	4	5	17
15	Spain	3	10	4	17
16	Brazil	3	5	9	17
17	Cuba	5	3	6	14
18	Kazakhstan	7	1	5	13
19	New Zealand	5	3	5	13
20	Belarus	3	5	5	13
21	Iran	4	5	3	12
22	Jamaica	4	4	4	12
23	Kenya	2	4	5	11
24	Czech Republic	4	3	3	10
25	Azerbaijan	2	2	6	10
25	Poland	2	2	6	10
27	Romania	2	5	2	9
28	Denmark	2	4	3	9
29	Sweden	1	4	3	8
30	Colombia	1	3	4	8
31	Ethiopia	3	1	3	7
32	Georgia	1	3	3	7
32	Mexico	1	3	3	7
34	North Korea	4	0	2	6
35	South Africa	3	2	1	6
36	Croatia	3	1	2	6
37	India	0	2	4	6
38	Turkey	2	2	1	5
39	Lithuania	2	1	2	5
40	Ireland	1	1	3	5
41	Mongolia	0	2	3	5
42	Switzerland	2	2	0	4
43	Norway	2	1	1	4
44	Argentina	1	1	2	4
44	Serbia	1	1	2	4
44	Slovenia	1	1	2	4
47	Trinidad and Tobago	1	0	3	4
47	Uzbekistan	1	0	3	4
49	Slovakia	0	1	3	4
50	Tunisia	1	1	1	3
51	Thailand	0	2	1	3
52	Armenia	0	1	2	3
52	Belgium	0	1	2	3
52	Finland	0	1	2	3
55	Dominican Republic	1	1	0	2
56	Latvia	1	0	1	2
57	Egypt	0	2	0	2
58	Bulgaria	0	1	1	2
58	Taiwan	0	1	1	2
58	Estonia	0	1	1	2
58	Indonesia	0	1	1	2
58	Malaysia	0	1	1	2
58	Puerto Rico	0	1	1	2
64	Greece	0	0	2	2
64	Qatar	0	0	2	2
64	Moldova	0	0	2	2
64	Singapore	0	0	2	2
68	Algeria	1	0	0	1
68	Bahamas	1	0	0	1
68	Grenada	1	0	0	1
68	Uganda	1	0	0	1
68	Venezuela	1	0	0	1
73	Botswana	0	1	0	1
73	Cyprus	0	1	0	1
73	Gabon	0	1	0	1
73	Guatemala	0	1	0	1
73	Montenegro	0	1	0	1
73	Portugal	0	1	0	1
79	Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
79	Bahrain	0	0	1	1
79	Hong Kong	0	0	1	1
79	Kuwait	0	0	1	1
79	Morocco	0	0	1	1
79	Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	1
79	Tajikistan	0	0	1	1

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	67	47	.588	–
Tampa Bay	62	52	.544	5
Baltimore	62	53	.539	5 1/2
Boston	57	59	.491	11
Toronto	54	60	.474	13

Central Division

Chicago	62	51	.549	–
Detroit	61	54	.530	2
Cleveland	53	62	.461	10
Kansas City	49	65	.430	13 1/2
Minnesota	49	65	.430	13 1/2

West Division

Texas	67	46	.593	–
Oakland	61	53	.535	6 1/2
Los Angeles	60	55	.522	8
Seattle	53	63	.457	15 ½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	71	44	.617	–
Atlanta	66	48	.579	4 1/2
New York	55	60	.478	16
Philadelphia	52	62	.456	18 1/2
Miami	52	63	.452	19

Central Division

Cincinnati	69	46	.600	–
Pittsburgh	64	50	.561	4 1/2
St. Louis	62	53	.539	7
Milwaukee	52	61	.460	16
Chicago	44	69	.389	24
Houston	38	78	.328	31 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	63	52	.548	–
Los Angeles	62	53	.539	1
Arizona	58	57	.504	5
San Diego	51	65	.440	12 1/2
Colorado	41	71	.366	20 ½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zapanta rules PBA Class A tournament

Free throws lift Playboy, Looban to wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Free throws conversion helped Playboy and Looban thwart their separate foes in the DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League over the weekend at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In last Saturday's curtain-raiser, JR Barrios canned two crucial charities to lead Playboy to a 54-53 win over Mawati, while Kevin De Leon also made a pair to secure Looban's 69-65 triumph over 360 Church in last Friday's opening match.

Barrios drilled the pressure-packed free throws in the last five seconds of the match to give Playboy its first win in the league. Playboy played only its second game last weekend, as its debut match over MBI two weeks ago was rained-out, while Mawati dropped to a 0-2 record to share the last spot in the nine-team Pool A with Hip Hop Thunder.

Barrios trooped to the line for the important charities after drawing a foul from Francis Serrano. Giving up the foul was a bad decision, as Mawati was still ahead, 53-52, and Barrios was too far away from the basket (at the left sideline just past midcourt) with the clock ticking down when Serrano reached in trying to tap the ball out.

After Barrios hit both charities, Mawati called a timeout, but failed to cash in on the last play when RJ Nonato's heave from the 3-point area bounced off the back iron of the rim.

Barrios top-scored for Playboy with 12 markers, making 7 of them in the payoff canto and matching Mawati's total output. Playboy outgunned Mawati, 17-7, to recover from a 37-46 third quarter deficit.

Mawati had the game in control in the first three quarters and even led by double-digits at halftime, 36-24, but played too complacent in the second halt to absorb its second straight loss.

360 Church was also in the driver's seat after the third period before collapsing in the fourth, allowing Looban to improve to a 2-0 record. 360 Church dropped to a 1-1 card.

De Leon led Looban's come-from-behind win, as he scored the team's last 5 points, including the final two free throws than ensured their win.

Looban was down by 7, 45-58, entering the fourth canto, when De Leon teamed up with Joy Dayrit in bringing their squad back into the game and pulling off the 4-point win. Deleon drained 12 of his game-high 26 markers in the fourth period, while Dayrit fired 8 of his 14 in that quarter to keep Looban's perfect record and put the team in a tie for the lead in Pool B with Anjie's Boys.

Saturday's Game

Playboy 54 – Barrios 12, Palacios 9, Borja 7, Isip 7, Macahito 4, Gonzales 4, Feria 4, Manangan 2, Hockett 2.

Mawati 53 – Reyes 14, Nonato 11, Serrano 10, Dela Cruz 5, Ibanez 5, Avila 3, Corotan 2, Tenepere 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-20, 24-36, 37-46, 54-53.

Friday's Game

Looban 69 – De Leon 26, Dayrit 14, Tabamo 12, Loste 5, Montano 4, Quiambao 2.

360 Church 65 – Lutrell 15, Wood 13, Basa 11, Buniag 8, Chavez 6, Capuyon 5, Buenabajo 3, Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-17, 29-34, 45-58, 69-65.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A GVH player goes up for a shot against the Peacemakers during their U25 game in the Docomo caging last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ruselle Zapanta prevailed in Class A of the PhilippineBowling Association Classified Tournament 2012, besting 10 other participants in the two-weekend competition at the Capital Bowling Center.

Zapanta secured his first Class A crown after routing Alex Castro in Game 1 of the finals, 214-150. Castro claimed the second and last finals berth and foiled an all-Zapanta championship showdown after ousting Ruselle's younger brother, Raphael, 247-185, in the semifinals.

The Top 3 finishers made it to the stepladder finals after surviving the 11-player qualifying roll-off that started on Aug. 5. Zapanta posted 200-plus pinfalls in three games (212, 219, and 217) to go with his 195, 193, and 169 for a six-game total of 1,205 pinfalls and average of 200.83. He was the lone bowler in the field to average at least 200 pinfalls in the qualifier, as the second-ranked Castro only mustered an average of 198. Castro also recorded 200-plus pinfalls in three games (205, 211, and 209) and adding his 192, 198, and 173 in three other games, the eventual runner-up collected 1,188 pinfalls.

Raphael started strong in the qualifier with his 233 and 211 in the first two games, before slowing down in the next three (183, 173, and 157) and then closing out with another 200-plus pinfall performance with his 203 in Game 6. The youngest Zapanta earned 1,160 pinfalls and averaged 193.33 to clinch the final seat to last Sunday's stepladder finals.

With his first place finish in the qualifier, Ruselle Zapanta drew a bye in the stepladder finals and left Castro and his brother to battle in the first round. Castro easily eliminated Raphael with his 62-pinfall win, but faced a daunting task of beating the older Zapanta twice to steal the championship. However, a well-rested Ruselle would not let Castro down another Zapanta bowler, as the former eased his way to the championship with a rousing 64-pinfall victory in Game 1.

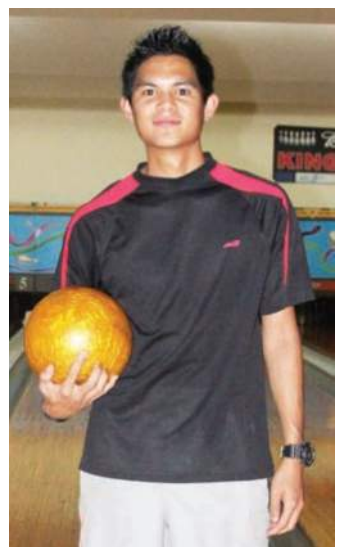
Meanwhile, last year's Class A winner Robert Talavera dropped to sixth place, while runner-up and third placer Richard Leong and Raymond Zapanta fell to seventh and fifth spots, respectively.

Talavera had a six-game total of 1,127 pinfals for an average of 187.83, faltering on his bid for at least a return trip to the finals after a so-so performance in the first two games. The 2011 Class A champion logged 176 and 165 in Games 1 and 2 before recovering in the next three games with his 200, 205, and 211. However, he fell three notches short of advancing to the next round after carding only 170 in Game 6.

Raymond also struggled early in the qualifier with his 166 and 163 in the first two games. He then saved himself from a disaster after scoring 200 and more pinfalls in three of the last four games (224, 225, 163, and 200) for a total of 1,141 and average of 190.17.

Leong had the most uneventful game among last year's Top 3 finishers, as he knocked down 200-plus pinfalls only once (202 in Game 2), made only 192 in Game 1, had his lowest performance in Game 3 (155), and nailed no more than 185 pinfalls in the last three games (183, 182, and 184). Leong totaled 1,098 and averaged 183.

Other bowlers who joined the qualifiers were Percy Omechelang (1,149), Raymond Angeles (1,097), Simon Manacop (1,078), Lito Teodoro (1,012), and Raul Dumapit (871).



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ruselle Zapanta poses for a photo after winning last Sunday's Class A crown in the Philippine Bowling Association Classified Tournament 2012 at the Capital Bowling Center.

Mieko leads winners in NUTESE bike race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan pro Mieko Carey posted the shortest time in the longest course in the NUTESE Fundraising Bike Race to lead winners of the weekend event.

Carey, who is preparing for XTERRA Japan scheduled later this month, completed the MTB long course race that started and ended in front of Mariana Resort and brought bikers to FEBC, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff in 44:09. She finished not only first in the women's division, but overall, beating about 20 riders in the category.

The 34-year-old Carey even defeated men's winner Butch Sublemente, who crossed the finish line at the 45:13 mark.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bikers wait for the start of last Sunday's NUTESE Fundraising Bike Race at the Mariana Resort.

John Arceo and Ricky Suba joined Sublemente in the Top 3 after timing in at 47:28 and 48:02, respectively, while Robyn Wondrasek finished second behind Carey after clocking in at 59:30 seconds.

In the MTB short course, which had riders negotiating FEBC, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff before heading back to Mariana Resort, newcomer Glory Bel Tan submitted 50:18 to beat Joann Salazar (52:34) and Mamiko Oshima-Berger (1:09:09).

In the men's division, Nonie Eugenio crossed the finish line more than a minute ahead of Jerome Diyco as the former tallied 40:34 against the latter's 41:48. Ronce Corotan rounded out the Top 3 after recording 42:37.

Meanwhile, last Sunday's event also featured road bike races with Nap Dizon topping the long course contest that had bikers leaving Mariana Resort en route to Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto and back to Banzai Cliff before returning to the starting point.

Dizon was the lone entry in the road bike division to finish the race under one hour with his 57:48, more than three minutes ahead of runner-up Willy Barbo (1:00:54). Rene Calage joined Dizon and Barbo in the Top 3 after tallying 1:02:56.

In the women's division, Gina Sebial had a cruise control, submitting 1:08:15, about 20 minutes ahead of runner-up Teresa Tenorio-Kim (1:27:00). Esther Ada completed the Top 3 with her 1:32:00.

Shottas remains perfect in Docomo caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Shottas fought off the Saints' late comeback attempt to pull off a 59-49 win in their U25 division game in the 3rd Docomo Pacific Summer Basketball League last Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The win was sixth in as many games for Shottas, while GVH clinched its first win in five matches after beating Peacemakers (1-4), 46-38, in last Friday's second game. The second-ranked R-Rebels (4-1), Rollers (2-3), Safety 1st (0-3), and Hi-5 (0-3) make up the rest of the U25 field.

Sahj Hossain paced Shottas in the first half, as he scored 9 markers and lifted his team to a slim 22-19 lead. Hossain and company then hung tough on defense to thwart the Saints' late rally.

The Saints pulled within two baskets in the final two minutes, but missed some good shots in the clutch.

Hossain added a baker's dozen in the closing frame, however he was one upped by teammate Eugene Manglona, who bagged 16 in the second half to finish with a game-high 24 points. The Saints' Joe Basa scrambled for a team-high 9 markers in the defeat.

In the second match, Juan Ogarto led GVH with 8 points in the first half for their close 19-16 advantage at halftime. Ogarto added 8 more in the second frame, 6 of which came late in the game to help secure the win. He received some welcome support from Jojo Ulloa, Juan Iguel, Justo Quitugua, and Dominic Reyes down the homestretch for their 8-point win.

Meanwhile, the season continues at the Garapan court this Thursday with the R-Rebels clashing with Safety 1st at 6pm. Then on Friday, Hi-5 takes on the Saints at 5:30pm, while the Rollers face GVH at 6:30pm.

First Game

Shottas 49 – Manglona 24, Hossain 22, Mettao 6, Babauta 5, Caro 2.

Saints 29 – Basa 9, Galarse 8, Luiz, Reyes 8, LJ Reyes 5, Namelo 4, Iglesias 4.

Scoring by halves: 22-19, 29-49

Second Game

GVH 46 – Ogarto 16, Ulloa 9, D.Reyes 8, Quitugua 5, Iguel 4, Salas 2.

Peacemakers 38 – La. Reyes 14, Luis Reyes 9, Camacho 7, Won Joo 4, Nuique 4.

Scoring by halves: 19-16, 46-38.

McIlroy wins PGA Championship by record 8 strokes

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

US tops medal count, but British celebrate as well

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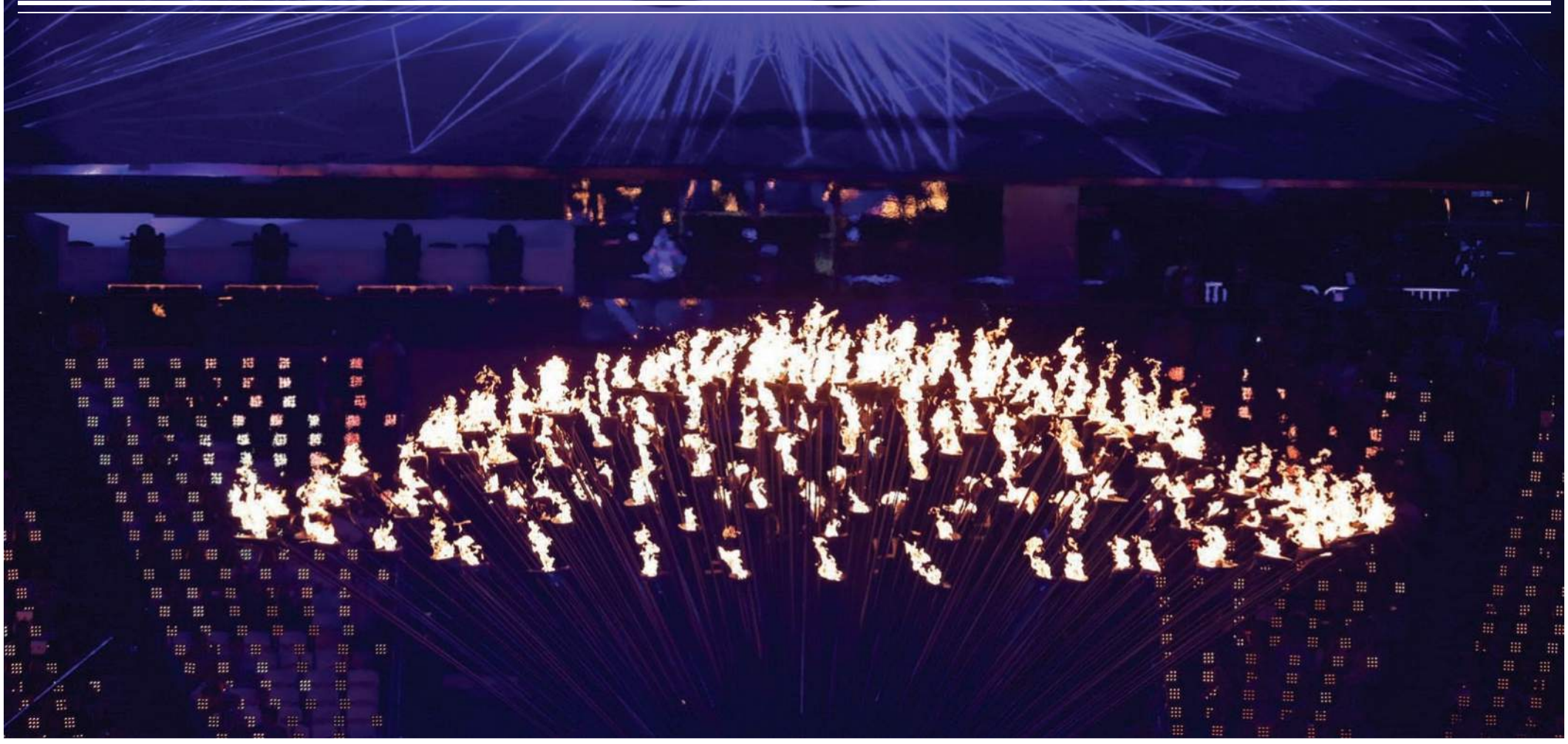

The Olympic rings stand illuminated over the Olympic flame during the Closing Ceremony at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Monday, Aug. 13, 2012, in London. AP

London closes Games, Rio gets ready

By PAUL HAVEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—And now, on to Rio!

London brought the curtain down on a hugely entertaining Olympics with a sensational rock 'n roll nostalgia tour of a closing ceremony that thrilled the London night with top-of-the-chart classics, supermodels and psychedelic mayhem.

After a glorious two weeks of never-to-be-forgotten moments that left Britain exhausted, exhilarated and deeply proud, organizers handed the baton to 2016 host Brazil, which must now take up the Herculean task of matching them.

Judging by the swaying samba of Marisa Monte and the sexy baritone of Seu Jorge in Brazil's eight-minute musical and visual postcard for the 2016 games, they look to be off to a foot-stomping start.

But Sunday was all about Britain.

The three-hour extravaganza offered a sensory blast including rock 'n' roll rickshaws, dustbin percussionists, an exploding yellow car and a marching band in red tunics and bearskin hats.

The Spice Girls staged a show-stopping reunion, and Monty Python's Eric Idle sauntered through "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life"—accom-

See LONDON on Page 26

LeBron leads US to gold medal win

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP SPORTS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—This was no Dream Team. This was reality.

The gold medal was in doubt for the U.S. men's basketball team.

The Americans led Spain by only one point after three quarters, a back-and-forth, impossible-to-turn-away-from game that almost anyone would hope for in an Olympic final.

Especially, it turns out, the U.S. players.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy. We didn't want it easy," LeBron James said. "A lot of teams have won gold easy. We didn't want it that way. We're a competitive team, and we love when it gets tight. That's when our will and determination kind of shows. It was the same way in '08."

United States' Kevin Durant, left, and LeBron James celebrate during the men's gold medal basketball game against Spain at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Sunday, Aug. 12, 2012, in London. United States won the game, 107-100. AP

See LEBRON on Page 26

Dodgers wallop Rockies to stay unbeaten

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Dodgers and the Orioles won their respective matches in the 18U Triple A Championship Youth Summer Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Dodgers out-heaved the Rockies in the first game, 17-11, while the Orioles got away with a tight 6-5 decision over the Reds in the second match that was completed in only five innings due to rain.

The Orioles boast bragging rights as the lone undefeated squad after Week 2 matches. The Dodgers and Rockies hold similar 1-1 cards, while the Reds have a 0-2 slate.

The season will continue this Saturday with another double-header. The Triple A youth league is organized by the SMLBA through the help of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services.

Dodgers 17, Rockies 11

The home team Rockies assumed an early 4-2 lead after the first inning with four hits in the bottom frame, including an RBI smash by designated-hitter Ricardo Dela Cruz. Dodgers' Ton Guerrero bagged an RBI single in the top portion.

The Dodgers went ahead, 5-4, in the second inning off two hits, a wild pitch, and a double by Brian Camacho, but Rockies' Leroy Regis and Dela Cruz hooked up with another set of base rips to tie it back up.

Then the Rockies' defense got roughed up in the top of the third and the Dodgers pushed ahead, 8-5, after a walk and a two-RBI bash by Guerrero.

The Rockies got only one run off four consecutive walks in the bottom frame, allowing the Dodgers to pull

See DODGERS on Page 26

The Dodgers' Jhace Palacios deals from the mound during their game against the Rockies in the 18U Triple A Championship Youth Summer Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND